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Soviet Union

Vol III No 42 *2 March 1978*

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Item 850 B-8 PrEx 7.10: FBIS-SOV-78-42

MAR 1 0 1978

FBIS-SOV-78-42
Thursday
2 March 1978
Vol III No 42

DAILY REPORT

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ORIGINAL

SOVIET UNION

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

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EDITORIAL RESTATES OBJECTIONS TO U.S. SALT AMENDMENTS

LD011445Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 1 LD

[Editorial: "To Curb the Arms Race"]

[Text] The path leading to the assertion of lasting peace is clear. It is the relaxation of international tension based on the Leninist principles of peaceful co-existence which have now obtained extensive international recognition. Detente provides an opportunity to choose the path of peace. It would be a crime to miss this opportunity. And the most important and most urgent task is to end the arms race which has swept the world.

L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, again dwelt on this cardinal problem of our time during the 24 February USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session. Talking of the existing potential for deepening and expanding cooperation between the USSR and the United States, L.I. Brezhnev stated that unfortunately the path to this cooperation is still blocked by all kinds of obstacles. It has been possible to achieve appreciable progress at the talks on limiting strategic offensive armaments but it is clear that some people in the United States would like to retard the course of these talks and prevent their successful completion.

The Soviet Union advocates the speediest completion of the talks on the basis of the principles of equal security. After a new strategic arms limitation treaty is signed it will be possible to move on to the next stage. This would be a genuine turning point on the path to military detente.

To stop, to limit the arms race and primarily the nuclear arms race: All people of good will on earth realize the primacy of this task whose solution is advocated by the Soviet Union. It is impossible to preserve peace and security under the conditions of the constant escalation of means of mass destruction.

The Soviet Union marches at the head of the peace-loving forces struggling to curb the arms race and for disarmament. Its policy is specifically embodied in practical action and proposals aimed at lessening and then eliminating the threat of nuclear war. Our country has been the initiator of the conclusion of a world treaty on the nonuse of force in international relations. It has proposed that the countries which participated in the all-European conference agree to renounce first use of nuclear weapons against one another and to cease further production of nuclear weapons. The Soviet proposals concerning general and complete disarmament, which have been discussed in the United Nations and at other international forums, have encountered wholehearted approval and support from many states.

However, there are forces in the world which are encouraging and fanning the arms race in every possible way. They exert constant influence on the governments of the Western countries which, while not limiting the grandiloquent statements of their desire for peace and disarmament, are in fact intensifying their war preparations and evading fulfillment of even the solemn commitments for curbing the arms race.

Everyone knows the constructive position adopted by the Soviet Union at the talks with the United States on questions of limiting strategic offensive armaments--talks which are of the greatest importance not only for both states but also for the entire world. Proceeding from the former positive results and, in particular, the conclusions of the treaty on the limitation of ABM systems and the interim agreement on certain measures to limit strategic offensive armaments, our country is persistently striving for further progress. It is a matter of concluding a new long-term agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments in strict accordance with the understanding reached at the Vladivostok meeting in 1974. However, the work to elaborate this agreement has still not been completed for reasons beyond the influence of the USSR.

The Soviet Union is not seeking to obtain any strategic superiority over the United States. It pursues a policy line not of arms superiority but of arms reduction and the lessening of military confrontation. The United States pursues a different line at the talks. The American side has put forward a number of proposals aimed at revising the Vladivostok accords and at obtaining obvious advantages for the United States, prejudicial to the interests of the Soviet Union's security. That is the essence of the various "amendments" supposedly designed to "improve" the Vladivostok understanding.

The Soviet side has repeatedly pointed out that it will never make the "concessions" which the United States is demanding and which would give the American one-sided advantages. The principle of equality and identical security is the only possible basis for an agreement. It is organically connected with the very character of modern weapons and with the equilibrium of strategic forces which objectively exists between the USSR and the United States. And any attempts to undermine this principle can only delay and complicate the reaching of an agreement, which is needed equally by both sides, just as it is needed by all countries and peoples.

The obstacles created by the American side during the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks cannot be divorced from the efforts being made in the United States to escalate the arms race, particularly in developing and producing even more sophisticated types of weapons of mass destruction.

The Soviet Union resolutely opposes the development and production of the latest types of weapons of mass destruction, particularly the neutron bomb. Our country has put forward proposals for a general ban on new types of weapons of mass destruction and also on the mutual renunciation of production of neutron weapons. But, as L.I. Brezhnev warned, if this bomb is created in the West--created against us--the USSR will not remain a passive observer. It will take the necessary measures to insure its security. The unreasonable U.S. attempts to gain superiority over the USSR can only result in a new qualitative leap in the race in lethal weapons.

The peoples of all countries are urgently demanding that the arms race be curbed. Broad circles of the international public have a high regard for the USSR's patient efforts to achieve success in the talks with the United States. They want to believe that the statesmanship of the leaders of the United States and the other Western countries will prevail and that they will demonstrate not only in words but through specific deeds their readiness to stop the arms race.

STATE DEPARTMENT SALT REPORT CONFIRMS SOVIET OBSERVANCE

LD011857Y Moscow TASS in English 1840 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 1, TASS--The State Department has made public a report regarding the observance of the provisions of the USSR-USA interim agreement on certain measures in the field of strategic arms limitations and the USSR-USA treaty on limiting anti-missile defence systems. The document has been sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Sparkman. The report contains an analysis of the fulfillment of the Soviet-American accords and enumerates the problems raised by the USA and the Soviet Union in the framework of the standing consultative commission, set up under the treaty on limiting anti-missile defence systems. It notes that the sides arrived at mutual understanding and accord in all cases. The authors of the report actually refute the fabrications, periodically appearing in the American press, alleging that the Soviet Union violates the interim agreement and the treaty.

NONGOVERNMENT CONFERENCE IN GENEVA PUSHES DISARMAMENT

LD011821Y Moscow TASS in English 1802 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 1, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Lopatin reports: Problems of disarmament and the important role played by public circles in the elimination of the obstacles on its way, in rendering maximum assistance to the holding of the forthcoming special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament--this is the main subject of the international conference of non-governmental organizations on disarmament which is now under way here. Its participants met today in commissions where they continued their work on the concluding documents.

World public opinion, your TASS correspondent was told by K. Bahagun, member of the Indian Parliament from the ruling Janata Party, is capable of making an important contribution to the easing of the arms race, to the discontinuation of the development and production of new types of weapons which are becoming ever more lethal, including the neutron bomb. Mankind must be delivered from the menace of the neutron bomb. In this question, India's stand is absolutely clear: Our government, all our country, come out against all types of nuclear weapons, against the arms race, for disarmament.

In an interview to the TASS correspondent, Robert de Gendt (Belgium) secretary general of the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation, stressed that the representative disarmament conference at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva served to promote the movement against the arms race, created a favourable climate on the eve of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament. He noted that the U.S. plans to launch the production of neutron weapons and to deploy them in Europe might whip up the arms race, prod the world to the development of new types of mass annihilation weapons.

Gerchard Kade (FRG), vice president of the International Institute for Peace, strongly condemned the plans of the Western militarist circles to foist upon the peoples a new round of the arms race. He told the TASS correspondent that clearly distinguishable at present is the line of the Western states, which are throttling the process of relaxation practically at all the negotiations. Part and parcel of this general line are the plans to produce and deploy neutron bombs.

CARTER NATO POLICY CONTRARY TO MBFR OBJECTIVES

LD2417111Y Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 17 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[NOVOSTI-attributed V. Arsentyev article: "Vienna, NATO and the Pentagon"]

[Text] During his recent European trip the head of the U.S. administration expressed a hope for the speedy completion of the second stage of the SALT talks and also wished the Vienna talks success. But subsequently Carter's true position was expressed. For instance, he did not give a precise, positive answer to L.I. Brezhnev's proposal for the mutual renunciation of neutron weapon production but instead proposed that the whole complex of problems connected with conventional weapons should be examined.

And when he got to NATO headquarters in Brussels James Carter made a straightforward promise to increase the numerical strength of U.S. Armed Forces by 8,000 men and to sent to Europe additional artillery units which it has proposed to equip with neutron warheads. So, having expressed a wish for success at Vienna, the President is pursing a policy which id diametrically opposed to the objectives of those talks.

"While loading the guns, Carter talks about peace," was the New York DAILY NEWS comment on his speech.

It is possible to agree or to disagree with that assessment. But one thing is clear: The upper echelon of U.S. authorities is having to perform various kinds of diplomatic maneuvers increasingly frequently in order to reassure alarmed public opinion as well as maintain the balance of forces between the sober-minded statesmen and public figures and that "strange conglomeration of forces" which is still hoping to return the world, if not to the cold war times, then at least to a "cold peace."

A report by the "independent" council of the Atlantic alliance explains that the balance of forces in Europe is allegedly being threatened by the development of Soviet conventional weapons. A survey examining the balance of the U.S. and USSR Armed Forces carried out on the instructions of the U.S. administration reached the conclusion that the USSR will gain the upper hand in Western Europe if conventional war is started.

It has long been established that an approximate balance of armed forces exists in Europe. As proof of this, for instance, it is possible to refer to the annual report of London's International Institute of Strategic Studies and statements by U.S. Defense Secretary Brown, FRG Chancellor Schmidt and British Premier Callaghan. The NATO staffs do not dispute these statements outright, but their representatives nevertheless assert that by the eighties the situation will have altered considerably in favor of the Warsaw Pact countries.

What could be simpler in this case than to verify the sincerity of the Soviet Union by responding to its proposal not to increase the numerical strength of the armed forces and the number of armaments in central Europe while the Vienna talks are in progress? Incidentally, while scaring the West Europeans with the might of the Warsaw Pact, they for some reason "forget" to say that the USSR and its allies are prepared to disband their military organization provided that NATO displays a readiness to do so as well.

The West is not agreeing to any of the Soviet proposals and as before, is insisting on an "asymettric" reduction of troops in the two groupings, knowing in advance that the socialist countries will not accept this, because their security would be considerably damaged.

The discussion about figures which has been going on in Vienna for over 2 years now confirms that the NATO countries are seeking to continue the talks for the sake of talking itself, while preventing discussion of the essence of the issue.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries during the latest, 13th round, constructively led matters round to the consolidation of military detente in Europe, putting forward a precise action program. They advocated and do advocate that each participant in the talks should carry out equivalent [ravnotsennyy] reductions in line with their military potential. And if the West were to heed this realistic proposal from the socialist countries, a reduction of approximately 17 percent in the armed forces and armaments in central Europe could be achieved right away. The West must stop juggling with statements about the imagined "superiority" of the USSR in conventional armament and focus its efforts on the implementation of the chief principles which were drawn up at the preparatory consultations: the equality and undiminished security of all of the talks' participants. There is no other way.

DELAY IN CONCLUSION OF CSCE TALKS PLACED ON WEST

LD012258Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Our special correspondent Anatoliy Potapov reports from Belgrade: The corridors of the Belgrade congress center are busy now: journalists from many countries taking part in the Belgrade meeting have again arrived in the Yugoslav capital. Everyone is waiting for the all-European forum to end. When the latest session ends, the correspondents literally lay siege to the delegates and fling questions at them. What's the news? After all, according to the regulations which were established the meeting should have ended 2 weeks ago. What is the present situation?

Well, here in this hall the latest closed plenary session has just ended. Indeed, a certain difficulty has been encountered at the Belgrade meeting. It is quite a strange situation. The main aim of the meeting as it was defined at the Helsinki conference has been achieved: There has been an in-depth exchange of views on the further implementation of all the provisions of the final act of the all-European conference--and in a general assessment, a very useful one. But the adoption of the final document in the spirit of Helsinki on the future development of the detente process has to date been prevented by the American delegation and the spokesmen for a few NATO countries. For instance, the head of the American delegation did not want the final document to even include a mention of the need to stop the arms race--and so he wholly condemned the by and large realistic draft tabled by the neutral countries. He wanted to push through a formulation which would legitimize interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states--which is categorically forbidden by the final act. The socialist countries sharply opposed this.

Under such conditions, it is difficult to reach mutually acceptable solutions. That is the reason for the delay. An overwhelming majority of delegates at today's plenary session demanded that no new proposals be introduced, that all the positive things that have already been achieved in Belgrade for a continuous detente process be summed up--what has already on the whole been previously approved by virtually all delegations--and that the meeting be concluded in the very near future. Well, this discussion today has apparently shown some people that artificial delays are of no value, and that on fundamental issues no compromise is possible.

After today's session, some delegates told journalists that a certain degree of progress had been achieved. The socialist countries are making every effort to insure a successful completion of the Belgrade meeting.

IMPERIALIST AIMS IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HINDER DETENTE

LD011527Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 9, 24 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Who Is Hindering Detente?"]

[Text] Official Western representatives eagerly agree with the principle of the universality of detente. "The spirit of detente should be all-embracing," the French president said on 9 February, for instance. "We cannot imagine reaching a very satisfactory agreement on the line which divides East and West Europe while fighting in regions 1,000 or 2,000 kilometers away." But the whole point is that there are circles in the West who do not want a head-on confrontation at the epicenter of detente, but seek to satisfy their expansionist appetites and the demands of their aggressive nature on the world's periphery.

Yes, detente is as indivisible as peace. If dark spots appear anywhere on earth, they cast their shadow on the entire international landscape. This issue of NOVOYE VREMYA discusses a number of conflicts and events casting gloom on the current international situation. For all their dissimilarity there is a common element in their origins. The "birthmarks" of colonialism can be clearly distinguished on the body of Africa, Asia and other regions of the world--disputed borders or borders which may seem unjust to some people; property interests which have been lost or are in the process of being lost, whose restoration causes people to weave intrigues and embark on interference.

The West's special interest in relations with the developing countries is of course dictated not by the desire to help its "younger brothers," as bourgeois propaganda asserts. There is not a whiff of selflessness here. There is the whiff of oil and of cheap labor, which continues to bring the transnational corporations high profits that cannot be extorted in the "civilized" capitalist countries.

Oil and other raw materials that are becoming increasingly scarce--that is the key to the West's present neocolonialist strategy expressing the interests of transnational business. "We must defend U.S. capital investments abroad and safeguard further access to vitally important raw material markets," said U.S. Secretary of State C. Vance in formulating this strategy.

To retain control over these markets the Pentagon is preparing punitive expeditions and gendarme operations. The Western press is also writing a lot these days about the growing "military presence" of the FRG and France in Africa. Enormous arms consignments are transferred along secret channels from the NATO countries to the regions of conflicts. Do not the outlines of some plot between U.S. bellicose circles, pro-Pentagon elements in Western Europe, and Arab reaction against independent Africa appear in all this racket?

In any event, the attempt to "dominate energy resources and sea routes in the African region" (the New York TIMES) is evident. Also obvious is the desire to retain the last colonial rear areas and prevent new links from falling from the chain of imperialism. Some people are attempting to shake the united front of Third World countries and turning them into operations bases in the struggle against the national liberation movement and world socialism.

It is precisely these far-reaching aims that they want to conceal with their appeals to lend detente an all-embracing nature. The imperialist circles themselves do not observe these principles, but place mines such as Africa and other areas on the path of global detente and even demand that the Soviet Union and the other countries should not prevent this or the destabilization of the situation in Africa and other continents, the fabrication of crises and the provocation of conflicts, the support of racist and other antipopular regimes and the shattering of progressive regimes. Bourgeois propaganda hypocritically tries to claim that aid to national liberation movements and victims of aggression is a violation of the code of detente. But is it not clear that the process of detente will be all the more successful and dynamic the more rapidly and fully the legitimate rights of all people to independent development are satisfied? Detente suffers not from the national liberation struggle or from the revolutionary process, but from artificial attempts to hold up and turn back the objective and historically natural turn of events. And it is useless for the West to try to set detente and the national liberation movement against each other. They are not opposites. They are going the same way! The wind of history itself is in their sails.

NEW IDEA FOR CAPITALIST ECONOMIC STRATEGY SOWS DISSENSION

LD020011Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1729 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

["'Concerted Efforts' or New Dissensions?"--TASS headline]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 1 March, TASS--Economic observer Sergey Stoklitskiy writes:

If you believe the Western press, the results of the Paris conference of representatives of the 24 most industrially advanced capitalist states in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) were sensational. The participants in the conference chaired by the chairman of the U.S. President's Economic Council, C. Shultz, buried what is called the "three locomotives" theory and with much publicity proclaimed the birth of a new concept in the West's economic strategy, calling it the policy of "concerted efforts." Although, according to the press, it was decided to postpone the official proclamation of the new doctrine until summer, that is, until the next economic summit conference in Bonn, its essence is already clear.

What is at stake is a sharp increase in the number of countries called upon to sacrifice their own interests for the sake of dragging the train of capitalism out of the quagmire of protracted depression. Besides the United States, the FRG and Japan, the New York TIMES lists them bluntly as Britain, France and Italy while REUTER adds Switzerland, Belgium and and Netherlands.

Alas, from the outset the new idea is in danger of becoming just as fruitless as the previous one. Hardly has the OECD session ended than the FRG spokesman said that his country had already made its contribution toward stabilizing the Western economy. Similar views could be heard in what was said by the French delegate and those of several other participants in the conference.

The worm of contradictions continues to gnaw at the attempts by leaders of the United States and other capitalist countries to coordinate their actions to find a way out of the deadlock and overcome the protracted crisis. It is not fortuitous that many authoritative observers, commenting on the birth of the "concerted efforts" concept, ask: Will it survive until the summer summit conference?

UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODY ENDS DEBATE ON S. AFRICAN VIOLATIONS

LD221946Y Moscow TASS in English 1907 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, February 22 TASS--The 34th session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission has finished discussing issues linked with the violations of human rights in southern Africa and the disastrous consequences for the observance of human rights stemming from the political, economic, military and other forms of aid given to the colonial and racist regimes in that part of the world. About 30 speakers intervened in the debate on those issues. They represent the member-countries of the commission and also international and non-government organizations and countries attending the session as observers. Their statements developed into a stern indictment of the policy of racism and apartheid.

In an adopted resolution denouncing the violations of human rights in southern Africa the commission strongly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe to self-determination and independence. It also pointed to the need to observe all principles proclaimed by the universal declaration of human rights. The session protested against the inhuman treatment of the freedom fighters imprisoned by the South African racist regime and the illegal minority regime in Zimbabwe. The commission condemned police brutality towards peaceful demonstrations against apartheid.

In a separate resolution unanimously supported by all participants, the U.N. human rights commission decided to take the most active part in the international year of action against apartheid declared by the U.N. General Assembly starting from March 21, 1978.

In a resolution on the implementation of the international convention of curbing the crimes of apartheid and punishment for it the commission called on all countries which have not acceded to the convention either to ratify it or accede to it.

The commission also unanimously adopted a resolution concerning the implementation of the programme of the decade of action against racism and racial discrimination.

The commission urged the world conference on the struggle against racism and racial discrimination due in Geneva from August 14 to 25, 1978 as part of that decade to discuss increasing assistance to the liberation movements and exerting stronger pressure on the governments and trans-national corporations whose collaboration with South Africa hampers the speedy establishment of racial equality in the area.

BRIEFS

ATLANTIC FISHING COMMISSION--Havana, February 19, TASS--The International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries ended a session in the Cuban capital. It was attended by delegations from Spain, Canada, Cuba, Poland, the Soviet Union, France and Japan, and a U.S. delegation in the capacity of observer. The session worked out recommendations on admissible squid catch quotas in the north west Atlantic and adopted a decision, according to which the squid fishing season will start not earlier than June 15, ending in November. The total catch is established at 100,000 tons. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1400 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD]

USSR UN MISSION PROTESTS HOSTILE ZIONIST DEMONSTRATIONS

LD020720Y Moscow TASS in English 0648 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

["Protest by the USSR Mission at the United Nations"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, March 1 TASS--The Permanent Mission of the USSR at the United Nations organization expressed a resolute protest in connection with hostile demonstrations by Zionist and other reactionary organizations. The demonstrations were staged outside the building of the Soviet Mission in New York and created hindrances for its normal functioning.

The note of protest, which was sent to the U.S. Mission at the United Nations, says that on February 26-27 a handful of hooligan elements from among Zionist and reactionary emigre organizations, availing themselves of the connivance on the part of official American authorities and New York police, inspired anti-Soviet gatherings outside the building of the USSR Mission. The mission of the Soviet Union regards such actions as a breach of the appropriate provisions of the U.S. federal law on the protection of foreign officials and official guests of the USA.

The Soviet mission also resolutely condemned the provocative propagandist hullabaloo which was raised round the anti-Soviet gatherings by some U.S. mass media and demanded that the official American authorities take all the necessary measures to ensure appropriate conditions for the normal activities of the Soviet Mission at the United Nations and its personnel.

U.S. LINKING OF SALT, HORN OF AFRICA ISSUES CRITICIZED

Unconstructive Approach

LD011542Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1456 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 1 March--IZVESTIYA describes U.S. policy on the strategic offensive arms limitation talks as "an unconstructive approach," by linking them with the state of affairs in the Horn of Africa.

Quoting the U.S. State Department in reply to Leonid Brezhnev's statement of 24 February on the question of the talks, the paper's political observer, Aleksandr Bobin, writes:

"In general terms there is no 'conflict' in the Horn of Africa except for a conflict between an aggressor and a victim of aggression. Consequently what the West is calling 'interference' by the Soviet Union is lawful assistance to a victim of aggression, in complete accordance with elementary ideas of law and justness. This is the crux of the matter which is being bypassed so assiduously in the West.

"I call to mind the fact that the Soviet Union made maximum efforts to dissuade the Somali leaders from embarking on their fatal path of aggression. But when nationalist feelings took the upper hand in Mogadiscio, we had no choice--the Soviet Union went to the aid of the victim of aggression. This is called a principled policy. But what can one call the policy of those powers who did not raise a finger to avert the conflict but are now virtually coming out on the side of the aggressor by helping them with arms and money?"

"I recall that the Soviet Union rendered aid to fighting Vietnam for many years," the observer goes on, "and at that time there was any number of newspaper articles and official statements in which the mercenary motives of Soviet policy were 'exposed' and there was talk of 'bases' and 'bridgheads' which the USSR was allegedly seeking in Indochina. But where are these bases and bridgeheads?

"The State Department had to distort the true state of things. It only remains for us to reach conclusions from these statements. In this instance they boil down to the fact that some people would like to make the solution of the most primary and fundamental problems dependent on this or that local situation, which is, moreover, to be most arbitrarily interpreted. The flimsiness of such a stand is obvious.

Vicious Anti-Soviet Campaign

LD020918Y Moscow TASS in English 0859 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

["PRAVDA: Unsavoury Playing with Most Important Problem"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 2 TASS--The Soviet Union is conducting consistently and in a constructive way the talks with the United States on strategic offensive arms limitation on the basis of strict observance of the principle of equality and undiminished security, PRAVDA's political commentator, Georgiy Ratiani, writes today. It is the U.S. side that is to blame for serious difficulties that arose at the talks. A part of them has not been overcome to this day. The reason for this is, above all, that certain circles in the United States would like to violate the principle of equality and undiminished security to suit their interests, the author writes. With all their complexity, the talks so far dealt with the problem of strategic offensive arms limitation. But now Washington deemed it possible to link these talks with other international questions that have nothing to do with them.

Pointing out that a vicious anti-Soviet campaign concerning the events in the Horn of Africa is being fanned up in the United States for many weeks now and that various allegations concerning "the USSR's aggressive plans" are being fabricated, the commentator writes: "Attempts are being made with the assistance of the Washington official circles to link directly the problem of the Horn of Africa interpreted in an anti-Soviet way with the outcome of the talks on strategic arms limitation. It is easy to see that this smacks of gross blackmail, which is impermissible in international relations."

PRAVDA's commentator writes that certain circles in the United States interpreted the recent statement of the State Department in such a way that it links, though indirectly, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks with the Ethiopian-Somalian conflict in the Horn of Africa. And this was used by them for calls to "freeze" Soviet-American relations in various spheres. "This is an unsavoury and dangerous playing with the main problems of international security and detente, the game that was already played during the years of the cold war and the war in Vietnam by the predecessors of the present Washington administration. And this had a rather sad ending, the commentator writes. Of course, it is possible to do now a serious harm to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks but those who are doing to actually harm the noble cause of world peace and also the United States, the American people, who are objectively interested in an end to strategic arms race." Georgiy Ratiani points out that the new manoeuvring of the influential circles of the United States that try to combine the problems that have nothing in common will not bring them laurels. Those who delay the conclusion of an agreement on strategic arms limitation or try to prevent it carry the matters to further spiralling of the race of the most dangerous weapons which can only sharply increase the risk of a nuclear disaster.

IMPLICATIONS OF U.S. DOCTRINE FOR MIDEAST, GULF VIEWED

Neocolonialist Relapse

LD011215Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Article by IZVESTIYA special correspondent V. Kassis and TASS correspondent V. Zhadyayev: "Dangerous Neocolonialist Relapses"]

[Text] Kuwait--Many schemes, projects and directives connected with the Pentagon's strategic presence in the Persian Gulf have accumulated in the archives of U.S. military-political departments. Some of these documents have been gathering dust for a long time--for example, the notorious Baghdad Pact. Other guides to action are still kept in safes marked "top secret." They all have one purpose--to build up the U.S. military potential in this region.

It is precisely this correct view that was taken of the latest plan for the organization of the so-called "security zone" that Western propaganda has recently been making much of.

What is the meaning, what is the essence of the latest militarist maneuver initiated behind the scenes by the United States?

States situated on the Persian Gulf differ from each other in terms of socioeconomic structure and in terms of their financial potential and geographical position. Perhaps the one thing they have in common is their oil resources, although these are not identical in extent either.

It is no secret that there has been close military cooperation between the United States and Saudi Arabia for many years. There is an American base in this country, and its armed forces are equipped with weapons manufactured at U.S. military plants. Saudi Arabia spends vast sums on increasing its army, creating a modern air force and constructing bases. In particular, work recently has been launched on the construction of a Saudi airbase in Bahrain. One wonders why one gulf state had to take its combat aircraft to the territory of another, where there already exist military bases belonging to the United States?! You must look for the answer not in the capitals of the two above-mentioned states--Riyadh and Manamah--but primarily in Washington. Through Saudi Arabia, it is trying above all to strengthen its "military presence" in the Persian Gulf, which is necessary both in order to support operations vitally important to American oil monopolies to put pressure on countries of the Near East and the Persian Gulf that are upholding their economic independence.

By banking on Israeli-Egyptian separate talks Washington is not only helping to wreck an all-embracing political settlement of the Near East problem but is even pouring oil on the flames. Take the U.S. decision to sell large consignments of combat aircraft to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Let it be noted that the U.S. initiative on selling military aircraft to Near East countries runs counter to Washington's declared intention to limit weapons supplies to areas of conflict and military tension, contradicts the interests of the Arab states and places yet another barrier in the way of a complete Near East settlement. Analogous Washington's policies have repeatedly ended in failure for their initiators in many parts of the world.

Betting on force of arms and the conventional "base" strategy always is fraught with the danger of an explosion that could bury more than just the "obedient regimes" bought with dollars. It was under the conditions that the idea of creating a "security zone" was born, bringing "obedient states" into its orbit. The United States wants to use others to pursue its own interests. Local observers state plainly that the United States is not only the inspiration behind the creation of a "security zone" but is also adopting concete measures to form one.

The web of the latest plot was woven a long time before the first attempts to materialize it were made. First of all Washington had to make every effort to coordinate the actions of Saudi Arabia and other countries in the required direction.

The idea of a "security zone" caused concern and anxiety among a whole series of Persian Gulf countries. Kuwait, for example, repeatedly stated that the security of the Persian Gulf area is insured primarily by the Arab League and therefore there is no need to create a new alliance.

During a consultation among the leaders of the emirates it was noted also that the actual purpose of the above-mentioned bloc was to "split the area into zones of influence" and would encroach on the independence of small states. Moreover, progressive circles expressed the legitimate fear that the aim of the alliance was to suppress and liquidate national liberation movements in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula and also to create an atmosphere of "most-favored-nation status" for the reactionary regimes in the area.

Realizing that the question of the legalization of the new alliance remained open, and even improbable, Washington has resorted to "ancillary steps." Attempts are being made to use the Saudis in order to knock together a European-type "common market" comprising the Persian Gulf countries which can later be transformed automatically into a military-political alliance. The hackneyed slogan of "countering the Soviet threat" is being used as a propaganda screen.

The Soviet Union remains the true friend of the Arab peoples. It has given and is continuing to give them support and assistance in the struggle against imperialsim. The need to strengthen the Arab countries' relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist states was reemphasized, for example, by the South Yemenis during the recent talks in the USSR between Soviet state leaders and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and member of the United Political Organization National Front Central Committee Politburo.

As for the slanderous campaign about the "Soviet threat," it is sufficiently well known who is fueling it: It is the handiwork of ideological centers financed by the CIA. Spreading the false rumor that the Soviet Union may go as far as the Persian Gulf in search of oil, the Washington STAR recently hinted at the need to "use U.S. military might in the Persian Gulf area if a hostile attempt is made to deprive the United States of Near East oil."

There is no need to tell the world public that the Soviet Union's oil resources are big enough and that expansionist aspirations are alien to the very character of our country. Nor is anyone deceived by Washington's "arguments" that by knocking together a new alliance it is expressing concern for the "defense" of the Persian Gulf countries.

This was unequivocally stated by U.S. Secretary of Defense Brown in Los Angeles the other day. Essentially the secretary expounded a "new" U.S. military doctrine for the Near East and Asia.

The American press notes that what the secretary said was "the toughest thing ever said by the administration." In particular, Brown especially emphasized that the United States has its "military interests" in the Near East and Persian Gulf. He added that these interests go beyond Arab-Israeli relations and are directly linked to oil. "Since the world's biggest oil reserves are in this area, the Near East and Persian Gulf cannot be separated from our security, the security of NATO and of our allies in Asia," the secretary asserted. The United States, he continued, "intends to safeguard the extraction of oil and its transportation to consumer countries" and, to this end, plans to deploy armed forces in the Near East and Persian Gulf area of more than three divisions that "would be able to react quickly to trouble in this area."

So everything is falling into place. People in the U.S. military-industrial complex, where oil magnates play a dominant role, are concerned about the "defense" of areas where oil is extracted and through which their ocean-going tankers must pass. In terms of this "defense" anything goes: from plots to bribery of regimes, from the sale of weapons to the dispatch of mercenaries, just to maintain profits and protect their own interests.

Political commentators note that the Pentagon chief's speech can be seen as a direct indication that the United States is ready for armed interference in the internal affairs of states of this area if events escape Washington's control. The U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT notes that essentially the Pentagon has already embarked on the creation of "crack armed strike forces ready at any moment to go to the part of the world where they are needed." Even the composition of this interventionist corps is known. It includes an airborne division, an airborne assault division and a division of Marines of the kind that committed outrages in South Vietnam.

The secretary could think of no novel method of camouflage: He reemphasized that this doctrine is the result of the "Soviet threat." He promised to introduce into the Near East and Persian Gulf area Trident nuclear-missile systems, cruise missiles, additional subunits of F-14 and F-15 fighters, long-range detection and guidance systems and so forth.

The Pentagon's interference in the affairs of the countries of the Persian Gulf and in the Horn of Africa are links in a single chain. Both areas are connected with the extraction and transportation of "black gold." And it was no accident that the conference of the leaders of a number of Arab countries and the PLO, which ended recently in Algiers, discussed the stage of affairs in the Persian Gulf area and, in particular, in Oman, and condemned foreign interference. It also expressed serious alarm at the situation in the Horn of Africa, where a process of active imperialist interference is under way.

To sum up: The Pentagon's "security zone" venture is nothing but another maneuver by imperialism conducted on the pretext of safeguarding the "security and stability" of the Persian Gulf. In fact, it is a blatant act of subversion aimed at preserving reactionary regimes, suppressing national liberation movements and isolating this area from beneficial cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community. This policy runs counter to the goals of international detente.

Gunboat Diplomacy

LD011115Y Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 9 Signed to Press 23 Feb 78 p 7 LD

[German Afanasyev article: "'Gunboat Diplomacy' in the Red Sea"]

[Text] "The Pentagon has urgently dispatched to the Red Sea area a destroyer which will join the three U.S. Navy ships already there." "The Marine subunits at the American Air Force and Navy base on the Island of Diego Garcia have been placed in a state of heightened combat readiness...." "At President Carter's order the aircraft carriers Midway and Kittyhawk of the American 7th Fleet are sailing to the area of the Gulf of Aden...." "Ships of the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet based in the Mediterranean are being sent through the Suez Canal to the Somali coast...." This disturbing information of the last few days disseminated by the world's biggest news agencies has caused profound concern in the independent states of the Arab East and Africa and among the entire world public.

What has evoked the Pentagon strategists' dangerous show of military force in the Red Sea area, which has coincided with reports of the creation in the United States of a special mobile formation comprising two Marine divisions intended for transfer to the Persian Gulf zone "in the event of conflicts emerging there"? U.S. Defense Secretary Brown answered this question recently. He declared: "The Red Sea and Persian Gulf area is of strategic importance for us." For some time now the basin of the Red Sea which divides the African Continent from Asia has been transformed into the arena of a complex diplomatic game and military provocations by the imperialist powers and Arab reaction. There are many reasons for this. First, this area is in the immediate vicinity of two dangerous hotbeds of tension--in the Near East and the Horn of Africa--where the intrigues of the forces of imperialism, colonialism, Zionism and their allies are jeopardizing the security of the peoples and the cause of international peace. On the one hand states which are allies of Washington--Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel--are situated there, and on the other there are the countries which have embarked on the path of profound socioeconomic transformations and which reject the imperialists' diktat: Ethiopia and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. The extremely important sea routes from the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal to the Indian Ocean run through the Red Sea. Up to 20,000 ships travel these routes every year. The countries of the eastern shore of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf have almost 66 percent of the known oil reserves in the capitalist world, and the United States imports from there 25 percent of the oil it consumes. Colossal American capital investments amounting to tens of billions of dollars are concentrated there. All this is what predetermines Washington's militarist activeness in the region. As Tehran's PEIGHAME EMRUZ has written, "guided by its neocolonialist interests, the United States is striving to create in this part of the world a so-called 'defensive cordon' extending from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea."

Some time ago the idea of concluding a "Red Sea security pact" emerged in Washington and NATO circles. There was preliminary discussion of this ploy by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Carter at Camp David in the middle of last year and at the London meeting of leaders of West European countries and the United States. Soon there appeared the so-called Arab "plans for insuring the security of the Red Sea." These were the result of coordinated action between Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Sudan on the one side and the United States, France, Britain, West Germany and Italy on the other, AN-NAHAR AD-DAULI AL-ARABI, an Arabic newspaper published in Paris, wrote.

These efforts, aimed at concocting a military-political bloc, are closely linked with the imperialist strategy of strengthening the U.S. military might in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf, the Baghdad OBSERVER notes. The new pact is essentially designed to "supplement" the notorious CENTO aggressive bloc and, according to Washington's scheme, must also insure the stability of the regimes in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and certain other Arab states which go along with the United States.

There is another reason for the increase in the activity of imperialism and Arab reaction in the Red Sea area. It is connected with the victories of the national liberation forces in Africa and progressive Arab countries' major successes on the path of liberation from imperialist dominance, with their pursuit of an independent policy and with the strengthening of the unity of action on the part of the Arab east's progressive forces in the struggle against the Egyptian-Israeli deals in the Near East under the aegis of the United States. That is why Washington and its allies are bending over backward to sow discord among the independent states of the Red Sea and to undermine the progressive regimes in this part of the world. The events in the Horn of Africa are a graphic example of this. By encouraging the expansionist aspirations of the present Somali leadership vis-a-vis Ethiopia, which pursues a consistent anti-imperialist policy, Washington and its Arab allies have provoked a bloody armed conflict between the neighboring countries.

Today Western weapons are flooding into Mogadiscio, and Western advisers are taking the Somali Army in hand. The above-mentioned plan for concluding a "Red Sea security pact" envisages increasing military aid to the Eritrean separatists who are conducting armed operations against Ethiopia's revolutionary Government in the coastal areas and particularly in the area of the ports of Assab and Massawa.

The United States camouflages its interference in this region's affairs with demagoguery about the "danger of a strengthening of Soviet influence in the region" which the "free world" must oppose. This cannot mislead the Arab world's progressive forces. Kuwait's AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM asked recently: "Does Washington believe that we Arabs do not understand its provocative role in the bloody game taking place in the Horn of Africa and do not realize what aims it is pursuing?"

Brandishing the threadbare bugbear of the notorious Soviet threat, Washington is actively pushing the idea of transforming the Red Sea into a closed "Arab lake"--an idea which is to the taste of Riyadh and Cario. The aim of this provocative undertaking is to impede freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and to infringe the legitimate interests of other states, including the Soviet Union. Rejecting the idea of transforming the Red Sea into an "Arab lake," Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council, stressed the need to preserve the "international status of the Red Sea" and to protect the region from the "desires of certain countries which intend to gain control of it."

The Soviet Union's position on this issue is clear. As the joint communique on the recent visit to the USSR by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, head of the PDRY Government, reaffirmed, the Soviet Union advocates "the transformation of the Red Sea, which is an area of water through which important international sea routes run, into a zone of peace." The Soviet Union has never had and does not intend to have military bases in the Red Sea. It advocates that all the region's peoples and states live in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation and can develop their economies and move along the path of social progress without imperialist interference in their internal affairs. This clear and principled position of the Soviet Union encounters total support and understanding from the peoples of the Arab east and Africa and all the world's progressive forces.

SENATOR BYRD'S HORN OF AFRICA REMARKS CRITICIZED

LD011558Y Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[What Does Senator Byrd Press For?"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 1 TASS--TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Robert Byrd, leader of the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate, while making a statement concerning the developments in the area of the Horn of Africa, asserted that USSR's actions in the area allegedly jeopardize international peace. In the polemic ardour the senator went to the lengths of saying that one cannot believe the Soviet Union, and even tried to question the development of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Though the causes and essence of the events in the Horn of Africa are well-known, Senator Byrd's statement compels one to recall facts once again. The facts are, first of all, that the dangerous conflict arose in that area as a result of Somalia's territorial claims to neighbouring Ethiopia and that Somalia is the aggressor which flagrantly trampled underfoot the U.N. Charter while the Soviet Union, true to its policy of peace, from the very beginning of the conflict, has been consistently and resolutely supporting and continues to support Ethiopia in its striving to restore peace in the area of the Horn of Africa, provided Somali troops are fully and unconditionally withdrawn from Ethiopian territory, certain circles in the West, first of all, those of the USA took a directly opposite stand, adding fuel--secretly at first and now in an increasingly overt way--to the fire of the conflict.

At present Senator Byrd, working up tension, is busy frightening American congressmen by saying that the USSR's actions in the area of the Horn of Africa are jeopardizing peace. But what actions are meant here? Yes, the Soviet Union today, like yesterday, is against a recarving of the borders of independent African states and other parts of the world. Yes, Ethiopia, which is fighting against the agressor, relies on the USSR's and other socialist states' support. But does not the government of that sovereign country have the right to apply for such support, the more so that the question concerns the threat to the country's territorial integrity and the repulse of the aggression?

If one is to speak of actions which really hinder the establishment of peace in the area of the Horn of Africa, one should first of all mention the unseemly, mildly speaking, role of those Western circles which, while talking of their feigned non-involvement in the conflict, in actual fact continue pushing the ruling circles of Mogadiscio to military ventures and intensively supply the aggressor with large batches of weapons. As Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (P.M.A.C.) of Ethiopia emphasized recently with good reason, it is exactly the political and material support to Somalia on the part of the United States and other NATO countries that leads to an expansion of the armed conflict in the Horn of Africa and serves as a potential source of threat to peace throughout the world.

So, today, like yesterday, manifest are two stands, two diametrically opposed approaches to the events in the area of the Horn of Africa. On the one hand, there is the explicit stand of the USSR and other socialist states which consistently come out for an end to the aggression, for peaceful talks between Ethiopia and Somalia, emphasizing that the atmosphere for such talks can be created only after the restoration of the status quo that existed before the conflict began. That would correspond to the goals and principles of the U.N. Charter and to the OAU decisions.

On the other hand, there is the stand of certain Western circles, including U.S. ones, which hypocritically try to present the matter as if they want to extinquish the conflict while in actual fact they show support for the aggressor and are threatening Ethiopia. Whose stand, then, must, putting it in the language of Senator Byrd, inspire confidence of those who really strive for elimination of the conflict? The African and international public, who actively come out in support of revolutionary Ethiopia, victim of aggression, gives an unequivocal answer to this question.

As for Senator Byrd's attempts to question, by using the events in the area of the Horn of Africa, the development of U.S.-Soviet relations, those in trade and economic field in particular, one can only say on this score: certain U.S. circles and, unfortunately, quite influential ones, at times have long been seeking under various pretexts to raise artificial obstacles and barriers to the deepening and expansion of mutually advantageous bilateral cooperation. Such line has brought nothing but damage to the national interests of the USA itself.

PATENTLY PROVOCATIVE ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN U.S. NOTED

LD011703Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[PRAVDA political observer Vitaliy Korionov article: "Why Do They Muddy the Waters?"]

[Text] An unseemly picture is to be observed in certain Western countries, above all in the United States. Statesmen, senators and congressmen, journalists who claim to be reliable, not to mention generals and admirals, are, as it were, vying with each other to see who can cite the most frightening proof of the "Soviet," "communist" threat. Some are making out that the USSR is seeking superiority over the United States on land, sea and in space. Others, their voices quivering, are making statements about armadas of Soviet tanks poised to pour into Western Europe. A third group states intimidatingly: The USSR's sole concern is how to sever the United States' ocean communications as quickly as possible and to doom the United States to an "oil famine." And so on and so forth.

This clamorous campaign is not just slanderous but also patently provocative. It is spearheaded primarily against the Soviet Union, which they try to present as a kind of "disrupter" of international tranquillity. They are particularly vigourous in their attempts to present the defense policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state in a distorted light.

Meanwhile the essence of the Soviet Union's military policy is absolutely clear: to insure the effective defense of our country and of our allies. And nothing more. The army and armaments have never been an end in itself for the world's first socialist country. Our country has not initiated nor will it initiate an arms race. No one here needs this race, and we have no people who make a fortune from manufacturing instruments of death and destruction. We are building a new society, and builders have a vital need for lasting peace.

Each first step in the arms race has been taken not by the Soviet Union but by the United States. It will be recalled that first there was the atom bomb, then atomic missile submarines, multiple warheads, followed by cruise missiles and finally the neutron bomb. It is well known, however, that even this is not the last U.S. weapon being wrought in the innermost recesses of the Pentagon. But as far as the Soviet Union is concerned, everything that it undertakes in the military sphere is done only for the sake of insuring security and only to insure that aggression will be repulsed. We have never attacked anyone. We have been attacked. Millions of our citizens have been killed, and thousands upon thousands of our cities and villages have been destroyed. We do not want this to happen again and will not allow it to happen.

The fabrications that the USSR is seeking military superiority over the United States are also totally groundless. The policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state has been and remains a course not toward superiority in arms but toward reducing arms and relaxing military confrontation.

"...When strengthening our armed forces," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said, "we in no way exceed the real needs of our security and of the security of our socialist friends. We are not threatening anyone and are not imposing our will on anyone."

It is not particularly difficult to grasp what has actually dictated the present mendacious campaign directed against the Soviet Union.

The USSR, like the other countries of the socialist community, is marching confidently along the path of peaceful, creative labor. The new Soviet Constitution, which has absorbed the 60-year experience of our country's development along the path of the October Revolution, has augmented the magnetic attraction of socialism and has confirmed most incontrovertibly that it is socialism that insures the genuinely democratic solution of the main problems of the development of society in the interests of the working people.

The anti-Soviet campaign unleased in the United States and in certain other countries sets itself the objective of belittling the worldwide-historic significance of the victories of socialism and of diverting the attention of the working people of capitalist countries from the constantly intensifying crisis of bourgeois society and from efforts by the dominant classes in that society both to find a way out of the crisis with the aid of an offensive against the standard of living and the human rights and freedoms of the working people and to make a fortune from arms to the accompaniment of this clamor.

The inspirers of the present anti-Soviet hullabaloo are displeased at the fact that the international situation is not developing in the direction they would like. The Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems is increasingly obviously becoming the norm of international relations. The consistent constructive line of the Soviet Union, and also the strengthening in influential circles of the West, the United States included, of the positions of those forces characterized by realism and flexibility when solving complex international problems, are leading to a situation whereby ways are being sought to reach agreement on issues that even yesterday seemed impossible to approach.

Especially acute displeasure is being caused among the enemies of Soviet-U.S. cooperation by the fact that, despite all their opposition, talks on concluding a new agreement between the USSR and the United States on the limitation of strategic offensive arms are continuing at an active stage and both sides are confirming their determination to complete this work in the near future.

This fact meets with understanding among all who take reasonable positions. For example, Senator E. Kennedy, a prominent U.S. politician, recently pronounced himself in favor once again of the speediest conclusion of a new strategic offensive arms limitation agreement between the United States and the USSR. Speaking in San Francisco, he stressed that this agreement would help bring under control and gradually reduce the world's nuclear arms stockpiles. The top-priority foreign policy task of the United States, Kennedy said, must be to prevent nuclear war and establish relations of cooperation between the biggest powers. Only by avoiding a possible nuclear catastrophe can we turn our efforts toward creative construction.

U.S. commentator J. Kraft, who believes that the "idea of a Soviet strike belongs to the realm of fiction," notes reasonably: The absence of a strategic arms limitation agreement between the United States and the USSR "will entail an unbridled arms race and the ending of joint control. In other words, any agreement that might be concluded as a result of the present Geneva talks is better than the absence of an agreement." L. Aspin, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, cites yet another argument why the reaching of an agreement with the USSR meets the vital interests of the United States: The conclusion of such an agreement, according to his calculations, will give the country the chance to save up to $20 billion.

But the forces that link their destiny with the military-industrial complex do not intend to be guided by the arguments of reason. The more clearly the prospect of the conclusion of a Soviet-U.S. agreement looms, the more furiously its opponents beat the drums of war, piling one upon another fabrications about the USSR's "insincerity" and about the "danger" for the Uniter States allegedly lurking in this agreement.

W. Brock, chairman of the U.S. Republican Party's National Committee, and R. Ellsworth, chairman of the Defense Subcommittee of the consultative group on national security problems, are accusing the present administration--which, among other things, is pushing through congress a military budget of a record size in the whole history of the United States--of pursuing a policy of "conciliation" with the USSR. They do not agree with this policy, and they are insisting on an increase in militar, appropriations for fiscal 1979 by another $2-3 billion, and also on the speediest deployment of neutron weapons in West Europe.

Charles Wilson, member of the House Armed Services Committee, categorically announced that the draft strategic arms limitation treaty "does not accord with the best interests of the United States" and that no treaty would be preferable. Adm E. Zumwalt, the well-known transatlantic "hawk," asserts the same thing, intimidating the American people with the idea that if a new agreement is signed the Soviet Union will gain superiority in strategic nuclear weapons. It would be futile to seek any evidence in statements of this kind. The authors of the statements do not put themselves to any trouble over this. To judge from all accounts, it is their business to intimidate the man in the street, to stir things up, to fish in these troubled waters and land the golden fish of profits from weapons manufacture.

Some people in the United States would clearly like to tie the hands of the Washington administration by voicing suspicions that it is making "unjustified concessions" in the negotiations with the USSR.

The most absurd arguments are being used for these purposes. Thus, in a recent article in the Washington POST, Anderson tries to frighten the White House with an allegation that the Soviet Union is preparing a "trial of strength" in the Horn of Africa.... Meanwhile methods such as "trials of strength" are altogether alien to the Soviet Union. As far as the situation surrounding the Horn of Africa is concerned, the logic of those people who resort to fabrications of this kind looks very strange. It emerges that those who are defending the territorial integrity of states and who advocate the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts are leading matters in the direction of a "trial" and "confrontation," while those who are overtly or secretly stimulating attempts at dismembering a sovereign state, and who are encouraging and arming the aggressor, are playing the role of what amounts to "peacemakers!"

"The foundations of our country's relations with the United States," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium 24 February, "have been laid, as is known, by a whole series of agreements and accords reached over the past few years as a result of summit talks. Opportunities have been created for deepening and expanding cooperation between the USSR and the United States. But today, unfortunately, I have to note that the path to this cooperation is still blocked by all kinds of obstacles. The obstacles are being created by forces interested neither in good-neighborly relations between the USSR and the United States nor in relaxation of international tension in general."

The sooner an end is put to the reckless activity of these forces, the more Soviet-U.S. relations and the cause of universal peace will gain from this.

U.S. MILITARY BUILDUP IN ROK INCREASES TENSION

LD011610Y Moscow TASS in English 1533 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

["Working up Tension"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 1 TASS--TASS commentator Vasiliy Kharkov writes:

Military units billeted at some of the American Pacific bases and in the United States proper are being rushed to South Korea. Units of 25th American Division, which have achieved notoriety by their barbarous actions during the war in Korea, have already arrived there from the Hawaii, having covered a distance of 3,500 miles. In Oklahoma state, which lies still farther away from Korea, a missile battalion is making ready for being dispatched to Korea. An air personnel replacement consisting of the 18th Tactical Air Force Group is expected to come. At the same time ships of the Seventh American Fleet with the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk at the head are being concentrated off the South Korean shores. All this military activity is part of preparations for the forthcoming American-South Korean exercises.

In the opinion of observers this is one of the biggest shows of force in the area of the Korean Peninsula lately. It is reported officially that the exercises will involve almost a hundred thousand officers and men. A high-ranking spokesman of the American command in the Pacific, evidently being impressed by the scale of the forthcoming exercises, described them as "historic". Thus, he made it clear what great importance is attached to the combat efficiency of South Korean troops.

His assessment shows once again that the Pentagon wants to make Pak Chong-hui's war machine, which it is building up, a major strike force in north-east Asia, a force playing an important part in American strategic plans.

That is also to account partically for the fact that Washington's statements on its intention to withdraw some of its land forces from South Korea are not supported by actions. Although the first American contingent must leave South Korea this year, not a single American soldier has left so far, nor are there any signs that they are going home in the immediate future. Now, under the pretext of exercises, new units are being added to the Second American Division which, it was said, should be withdrawn from South Korea within the next five years. One gets the impression that the fuss raised by American generals and some congressmen over the so-called "South Korean vacuum" has for its aim, on the one hand, to put a decision of the question of American troop withdrawal and, on the other, to spur up the build-up of the military potential of neighbouring Japan.

The forthcoming American-South Korean exercises fully fit into the present Pacific strategy of the USA, as it was set forth recently by U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown in a statement in Los Angeles.

Among the component elements of this strategy Brown mentioned the building up of the American strategic missile nuclear forces, greater arms supplies to South Korea and more vigorous efforts to draw Japan into U.S. military plans.

The provocative shows of force which is being staged by the Pentagon and Seoul on the Korean Peninsula--and this is the only way to describe these military exercises--again draws world public attention to the dangerous situation in the area. These exercises show that the presence of American troops in South Korea, the policy of militarising South Korea as well as plans for tripartite military cooperation, Washington-Seoul-Tokyo, are the main obstacles in the way of the Korean people's striving for a peaceful and independent unification of their homeland.

REPORTS ON CONTINUING DROP IN DOLLAR'S VALUE NOTED

LD012002Y Moscow TASS in English 1910 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

["When the Dollar 'Falls'"--TASS headline]

[Text] Bern, March 1, TASS--The parity of the American monetary unit has dropped in Switzerland to a new record-low for the entire post-war period. Today one U.S. dollar was equal to 1.813 Swiss francs in the morning and to 1.7725 francs later. Six years ago the same U.S. banknote could be exchanged for 4.33 Swiss francs.

Bonn, March 1, TASS--Today at the chief exchange of the FRG at Frankfurt-am-Main the American dollar cost 1.9950 West German marks. This is an unprecedentedly low exchange rate of the American currency at FRG exchanges throughout the post-war period.

The new steep devaluation of the dollar took place despite the fact that the German federal bank bought up in recent days scores of millions of U.S. dollars in the hope to stabilize its course.

Kuwait, March 1, TASS--The continuing devaluation of the U.S. dollar on the world monetary exchanges is causing profound concern in oil-exporting countries. If the U.S. dollar's exchange rate continues to drop, Kuwait will demand of other oil-producer countries a revision of oil prices, the petroleum minister of Kuwait, 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi, declared today. If this will be the case, he said, Kuwait will also take the initiative towards convening an extradordinary session of the oil and finance ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) to discuss the situation in connection with the crisis of the American monetary unit.

PONOMAREV, ZIMYANIN, RUSAKOV REPRESENT USSR AT CONFERENCE

ID020722Y Moscow TASS in English 0650 GMT 2 Mar 78 ID

[Text] Budapest, March 1 TASS--On the behalf of their parties, secretaries of the Central Committees of the communist and workers' parties of socialist countries, at a conference held in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, pledged solidarity with the just struggle of communists, progressive, revolutionary and national-liberation forces, with the struggle of all the peoples against the imperialist policy of diktat and aggression.

Participants in the conference noted that the 60th anniversary of the October socialist revoluion, widely celebrated throughout the world, as well as the celebration of other important anniversaries and events in the life of the fraternal parties and peoples, convincingly demonstrated the significance of the oustanding achievements of socialism in all walks of life, promoted the wider dissemination in the world of Marxist-Leninist ideas, of the great ideals of peace, freedom, independence of the peoples and of socialism.

Participants came out for adopting resolute disarmament measures, first of all toward nuclear disarmament. To overcome the resistance to such measures put up by reactionary forces in NATO countries and by other conservative forces is an urgent task, of vital importance to all the peoples.

The CPSU was represented at the conference by alternate member of the Politbureau and secretary of the CPSU CC Boris Ponomarev, secretaries of the CPSU CC Mikhail Zimyanin and Konstantin Rusakov.

KUZNETSOV ARRIVES IN SOFIA, GREETED BY ZHIVKOV

ID212138Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 1 Mar 78 ID

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, today arrived in Sofia from Moscow for the celebrations to mark the centenary of Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman yoke. [Moscow in Russian at 2050 GMT on 1 March adds: "Later in the day Comrade Kuznetsov was received by Comrade Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and Chairman of Bulgaria's State Council. A conversation took place, which passed in a cordial and comradely atmosphere. The Soviet delegation laid wreaths at the Georgi Dimitrov mausoleum and the Lenin memorial. The members of the delegation visited the Dimitrov museum and the National Museum of Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship."]

Moscow Anniversary Observance

ID012050Y Moscow TASS in English 1942 GMT 1 Mar 78 ID

[Text] Moscow, March 1, TASS--Public representatives of the people of Moscow today held a jubilee meeting devoted to the centenary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke. It was attended by Politbureau member of the CPSU CC, First Deputy Premier of the USSR Kiril Mazurov, Secretary of the CPSU CC Vladimir Dolgikh, and also a delegation of the National Committee of Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship, led by the first secretary of the Burgas regional committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Nikolay Zhishev.

Mikhail Yasnov, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, stated in his report that the war of 1877-78 was Russia's natural response to the call of the Bulgarians languishing under the tyrannical yoke of the sultans and subjected to abuse and physical annihilation. By its content, goals and tasks this was a liberative, people's war.

The ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the USSR, Dimitur Zhulev, told the meeting that the heroic feat of Russia's sons will live forever in the memory and the hearts of a grateful Bulgarian people.

BULGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER RECEIVED BY PATOLICHEV

AU242116Y Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 24 Feb 78 AU

[Text] Khristo Khristov, Bulgarian minister of foreign trade, met Nikolay Patolichev, USSR minister of foreign trade, in Moscow today and had a comradely talk with him. During the talk questions connected with the further expansion and intensification of Soviet-Bulgarian trade and economic relations were discussed.

Today Khristo Khristov, Bulgarian minister of foreign trade, also met Vitaliy Morozov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee of Foreign Economic Relations.

COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS VISIT TO CSSR BY PCP LEADER CUNHAL

LD012326Y Moscow TASS in English 2125 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Prague, March 1, TASS--The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] and the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP] consistently adhere to the positions of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. They express their determination to fight to further strengthen the unity and cohesion of the world communist and working class movement. This is stated in a communique published here on the stay in Czechoslovakia by the general secretary of the PCP, Alvaro Cunhal. He was invited by the Central Committee of the CPCZ.

During the talks Alwaro Cunhal and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPCZ, Gustav Husak, noted that the forces of socialism, progress, democracy and peace had strengthened their positions in the world today. The leaders of both parties declared their support for the struggle of the forces of socialism and progress for the relaxation of tension, for the ending of the arms race, against neutron weapons and the attempts of the monopoly bourgeoisie to shift the burdens of the after-effects of the deep crisis of capitalism onto the shoulders of the working people. The reactionary forces, the communique points out, are stepping up their actions against peace and the world revolutionary process. They are trying to undermine the unity of the world communist and working class movement. They are engineering slanderous campaigns against the socialist countries and trying to discredit the successes of socialism and its genuinely humane, democratic essence. One of their objectives is the intention to isolate the communists in the capitalist countries from their true allies, the socialist countries. The leaders of both parties expressed the conviction that their common duty is to fight all those attempts in a vigorous manner.

On behalf of the Czechoslovak Communists, the communique underlines, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPCZ, Gustav Husak, expressed fraternal solidarity with the untiring and just struggle of the PCP to defend the interests of Portugal's working people and the principal democratic gains which are the basic prerequisite for futher positive development in that country.

HAVELKA CITES SOVIET AID TO CSSR IN 1948, 1968 EVENTS

LD011329Y Vilnyus SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 21 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Article by Jan Havelka, CSSR Ambassador to the USSR and member of the CPCZ Central Committee: "A Triumph of People's Democracy"]

[Excerpts] On 25 February we will be marking the 30th anniversary of the victory of the working class and working people of Czechoslovkia over the bourgeoisie. February 1948 is inscribed forever as a glorious page in the history of the CPCZ, the working class and the whole Czechoslovak people. It was in that month that the many years' struggle to overthrow the hateful exploiting system was successfully completed. The February victory was an important contribution to the world revolutionary process started 60 years ago by the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The working people were able to win victory in February because they relied on the friendship and assistance of the Soviet Union. Our foreign policy's orientation toward the Soviet Union and the cooperation treaty between our countries during the war years played the decisive role in defending Czechoslovakia against the possible intervention of imperialism. The USSR's economic assistance to our young state was also invaluable.

When in 1968 internal counterrevolutionary forces with the support of international reaction launched an attack on socialism in Czechoslovakia with the aim of wresting Czechoslovakia away from the socialist countries and restoring the domination of the bourgeoisie, it was thanks only to the international assistance of the USSR and other socialist countries that the counterrevolution was defeated.

Grishin, Promyslov Greetings

LD011635Y Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "Sincere Congratulations"]

[Text] V. Grishin, first secretary of Moscow Gorkom, and V.F. Promyslov, chairman of Moscow Gorispolkom, have sent Comrade Antonin Kapek, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and first secretary of the Prague CPCZ City Committee, and Comrade Zdenek Zuska, mayor of Prague, a telegram of congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the February victory of the Czechoslovak working people over reaction, as follows:

On the occasion of the national festival of the 30th anniversary of the February victory of the Czechoslovak working people over reaction, we send you, the CPCZ Prague City Committee, the national committee and all the inhabitants of Prague sincere contratulations and best wishes on behalf of the Moscow Gorkom, the Moscow Gorispolkom and all Muscovites. In the three decades which have elapsed since the historic victory won in February 1948 the working people of Czechoslovakia and its capital, under the leadership of the CPCZ, have traveled a great path of socialist building and have achieved outstanding successes.

Muscovites, like all Soviet people, sincerely rejoice at these successes. They are furthered by the unbreakable friendship of our parties and peoples and particularly by the fruitful cooperation of the party and public organizations of Moscow and Prague and the labor collectives of our cities.

On the national festival of the CSSR we wish you, dear friends, and all the communists and working people of Prague new achievements in implementing the decisions of the 15th CPCZ Congress and the further flourishing of your homeland and its capital.

PORTUGUESE PEOPLE INDIGNANT AT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

LD020921Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 9, 24 Feb 78 pp 12-13 LD

[B. Kotov article: "Portugal: Winter of Discontent"]

[Text] Lisbon, February--There has not been such a cold winter in Portugal for a long time. Not only those who live in the northern parts of the country, where there is sometimes a really hard frost at night, but even the southerners are huddling up against the cold. In the Alentejo the temperature has fallen below zero (an unheard-of thing!) several times. In the daytime rain falls endlessly. The sky is covered to the horizon with low, leaden clouds. Gusts of piercing wind beat wildly against windows.

The whims of the weather, however, are not the main concern of the Portuguese, although it is giving rise to a good deal of fuss. Everyone by no means has warm clothes and many houses are without heating.

Where is it heading, this country which has lived through its first government crisis since the adoption of a Republican constitution in 1976? What policies will be implemented by the second constitutional government, which includes, as well as socialists, representatives of big capital--the leaders of the Social Democratic Center Party [CDS] --for the first time? How will the new government course be reflected in the living and working conditions of the masses of workers and peasants and of the whole people and in the gains of the April revolution, which opened up for Portugal the path toward building a democratic society and achieving genuine national independence? These questions are constantly in the pages of the local press.

The very formation of a government coalition on the basis of the political agreement concluded on 19 January between the Socialist Party and the rightists troubled the democratic public. Many observers noted the disturbing coincidence between the sudden break-off by the socialists of talks with the Communist Party and the conclusion of this "unnatural alliance," which immediately followed an unceremonious anti-communist attack on the left forces in West European countries from across the ocean.

This is how the reaction of Portuguese working people to the composition of the new cabinet was described by the trade union journal ALAVANCA: "The entry of CDS leaders into the government has aroused a wave of indignation throughout the country. The Portuguese are aware that this "decision" will not only fail to lead the country out of the crisis it is undergoing, but will only aggravate it. With thousands of telegrams, petititons and resolutions trade union organizations, workers' commissions, residents' committees, cooperatives and other people's organizations are protesting against the creation of a government which will intensify attacks on nationalization, agrarian reform, workers' control and other gains that have been achieved and are enshrined in the constitution."

In the opinion of the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP], expressed at a PCP Central Committee plenum held recently, the socialist leadership has made a historic error in giving preference to a coalition with big capital and an extreme right parliamentary party, while rejecting cooperation with the working people and communists. The socialist leaders, the plenum noted, have taken on a heavy responsibility in opening the doors of power to leaders of the CDS, which not only voted against the adoption of the constitution but has even declared implacable war on it and on the other gains of the April revolution. The PCP stressed the particular danger of transferring into the hands of CDS representatives the ministerial portfolios of foreign affairs, commerce and tourism, and administrative reform.

Leftwing forces--communists, trade unions and other mass organizations of the working people--and also certain figures in the Socialist Party itself, have sharply criticized the government program, passed in the republic's assembly on 12 February after long parliamentary debates thanks to the votes of socialists and their new partners from the CDS. The criticism heard from the platform of parliament, at workers' and peasants' rallies and meetings and in the resolution of leftwing political parties and organizations testifies that people in the country have recognised the proclamatory and at times simply demagogic nature of this document.

The program notes that "the constitution will be strictly observed" and "efforts to insure social justice" and "the struggle against social inequality" will be made. The "consolidation of the profound reforms implemented by the revolution: nationalization, agrarian reform, workers' control, the right to strike and all the other rights and freedoms enshrined in the text of the constitution" is named as a condition for the new platform's implementation.

However, these few positive provisions, of a very general, diffuse nature, are literally drowned among the numerous, far more concrete articles and items which are arousing undisguised anxiety in the country's leftwing circles.

The coalition cabinet's program, they state, does not offer a concrete solution to the problems facing the country, but only repeats the main features of the platform of the former government, which could not save the country from the crisis in 16 months in power. At the same time some of its provisions directly contradict the Socialist Party program. For instance, the thesis insisted on by the CDS on the dominating role of the capitalist sector in the Portuguese economy, to whose interests the public sector must be subordinate. The proposed course is openly aimed at restoring the power of monopolies over the Portuguese national economy and state machinery.

The democratic public stresses that the program condemns the working people to new sacrifices--limitation of wages, rising prices, the continuation of the policy of redundancies, and increasing unemployment. On the other hand, it contains new concessions to big capital. The document asserts, in particular, that capitalist restoration is equivalent to economic recovery, although it is obvious that this "recovery" will only favor the monopolies.

As leftwing circles note, from now on the strategy of Portugal's national development is basically oriented toward extending relations with the Common Market. This will inevitably make the country even more dependent on imperialism and create a threat to its national independence. The program's foreign policy section includes, for instance, the old NATO refrains: "The weakening of NATO in the face of the preservation and even strengthening of the Warsaw Pact would lead to international instability and a loss of security." At the same time the document found no space in its pages to even mention disarmament and international detente.

Quite naturally the socialist leaders do not agree with such a critical analysis of their activity. They are most unwilling to admit, for instance, the coalition nature of the new cabinet, believing that as before the Socialist Party retains "independence" in carrying out its policy. "A government based on the socialist party with the inclusion of individual figures, with stable support in parliament"--that is how the new government formula is defined in the political agreement between the Socialist Party and the CDS. However, there are other points too. "Regular meetings will be held between the prime minister and the CDS chairman, and also between ministers and CDS representatives on appropriate questions," that document points out. "Cooperation with parliament will be insured by an interparty commission."

The government's concrete activity will show whether the new cabinet can dispel the anxiety of the democratic public and whether the Portuguese Socialist Party with its present leadership will retain the character of a leftwing party, as its leaders are so fond of stressing at every step.

As yet the government has only held its first session, at which the main organizational questions were examined. The new Commerce and Tourism Minister B. Orta, in spite of torrential rain, recently went round the capital's main markets, plunging, so to speak, into the midst of the people. And, certain bourgeois journalists, having lost their sense of humor, saw in this a very promising "new style" in the cabinet's activity...

PCP DELEGATION VISITS USSR ON ARMY ANNIVERSARY

ID020958Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0715 GMT 2 Mar 78 ID

[Text] Moscow, 2 March, TASS--A delegation of the Portuguese Communist Party has been in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee to study the experience of the organizational and party work of the CPSU.

The delegation had meetings and talks in the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, the Central Committee International Department, and Moscow and Volgograd Obkoms and CPSU gorkoms and raykoms, and visited industrial and agricultural enterprises.

The delegation visited Lenin's mausoleum and laid a wreath. It took part in ceremonies devoted to the 60th anniversary of Soviet Armed Forces.

KORNILOV BIASTS GUARDIAN ARTICLE ON SOVIET DISSIDENTS

ID281904Y Moscow TASS in English 1846 GMT 28 Feb 78 ID

["Suppliers of Slander"--TASS Headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 28, TASS--TASS news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

The English newspaper GUARDIAN published today a lengthy article about so-called "Soviet dissidents". The article, written in a malicious anti-Soviet tone and signed by a certain D. Simpson, director of the British section of Amnesty International repeats (for the umpteenth time) the slanderous invention of reactionary Western propaganda concerning the alleged "persecution of dissidents" in the USSR, the "abuse of psychiatry" by the Soviet authorities and other crazy inventions of this kind.

It is not for the first time that an attempt is being made in the West to launch an anti-Soviet campaign for so-called dissidents under the pretext of "concern" for human rights, and there is hardly any need to speak of the hidden motives behind such actions. It is well known that the very existence of "dissidents", a handful of renegades, has become possible only because the enemies of socialism have enlisted in this matter the cooperation of the Western press, diplomatic as well as intelligence and other special services. It is also well-known that "being a dissident" has become a sort of profession which is generously paid with foreign money and other handouts, all this different little from the way imperialist special services pay their agents.

In other words, it has become a rule that wherever a campaign over "dissidents" is conducted one is sure to find the tracks of Western special services. The same happened this time. It is no secret that the organization, which calls itself the British section of Amnesty International and which uses sometimes "humanitarian" slogans as a cover-up, is in fact nothing else but one of the branches of the Western special services. This "section" has close connections, for instance, with the U.S. CIA from which it receives annual "subsidies" or, to put it plain, big handouts for its anti-Soviet, anti-socialist slander. The tone of today's article in the GUARDIAN shows that this time too, its authors were filling quite a definite order.

In view of the above-said the slanderous, provocative character of the GUARDIAN article, concocted by the "section", is hardly to be wondered at. What makes one wonder is why the GUARDIAN, which claims to be a "serious" and even "objective" newspaper, has published this anti-Soviet article. It must be clear that the publication of such vicious inventions is not conducive to objective information of the British public about the Soviet Union. Then what aims do such actions serve? In any case, not the aims of achieving better understanding between the peoples of our two countries.

FRG INCREASES FRIGATE, TANK, AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION

LD231428Y Moscow TASS in English 1350 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, February 23, TASS--It has been officially announced here that a contract was signed between the FRG Defence Ministry and the shipbuilding yards Vulkan-Werft in Bremen on the construction for the FRG Navy of six frigates equipped with the missile weapon. This order is estimated to be worth almost 2,000 million marks. West German's military-industrial complex is ever more actively appearing as a supplier of the latest types of weapons not only for the Bundeswehr, but also for the armes of the other NATO member-states. A particularly great role is played in it by the concerns of the missile-aircraft, engineering and motor manufacturing industries. Judging by press reports, the Messerschmitt-Belkow-Blohm MBB firm is soon to start the manufacture of Tornado war planes. At the same time, as the newspaper HANDELSBIAT notes, the MBB hopes to secure from the Canadian Government an order for the supply of at least 120 Tornado aircraft. The Krauss-Maffei firm in Munich, which is part of Flick's military concern has manufactured several thousand Leopard-1 tanks, with which the armies of the FRG, the Netherlands, Belgium and Norway are equipped. At present, the works of the firm are completing preparations for the batch manufacture of the latest Leopard-2 tank. The West German Bundeswehr alone is to receive 1,800 of such tanks. Speaking at a press conference in Munich, representatives of the Krauss-Maffei said that they are preparing for the export of Leopard-2 tanks to such countries as Italy, Australia, Canada and Denmark. Observers note in this connection that as regards the number of tanks supplied to the armies of foreign states, the FRG has outstripped even the USA in recent years.

COMPOSITION OF NEW FINNISH GOVERNMENT REPORTED

LD012044Y Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Helsinki, March 1, TASS--The new government of the Finnish Republic, headed by Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa, has been officially announced here today. Serving in the government are representatives of the Social Democratic Party, the Democratic Union of the Finnish People, the Centre Party and the Liberal People's Party. The new government has 142 mandates in parliament out of 200.

III. 2 Mar 78 U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

'ARAFAT, PLO DELEGATION EXPECTED IN MOSCOW 'SOON'

LD011414Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1337 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Beirut--It has been learned in Palestinian circles in Beirut that Yasir 'Arafat, president of the PLO Executive Committee, will soon leave for Moscow. 'Arafat will lead a delegation which will include Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and some other members of the executive committee of the Palestinian movement.

SYRIAN-USSR MILITARY TALKS TAKE PLACE IN MOSCOW

JN280933Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Moscow--Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shaihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Army and armed forces, and the military delegation accompanying him are continuing their talks with Soviet military officials. The talks are aimed at strengthening Syria's defense capability.

Major General ash-Shahihabi and the military delegation accompanying him arrived in Moscow yesterday on an official visit to the USSR.

SYRIA SCORES EGYPTIAN ATTACKS ON AL-ASAD USSR VISIT

LD011436Y Moscow TASS in English 1310 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 1 TASS--Syria has always strived to give a long-term character to its relations with the USSR, writes the newspaper TISHRIN commenting on the results of the official friendly visit of President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic to the USSR. The As-Sadat regime, the newspaper stresses, is launching slanderous attacks against the Soviet Union in order to ensure the penetration of imperialism and Zionism into the Arab world. Syria, on the contrary, comes out for broadening, strengthening and deepening its relations with the USSR precisely because it wants to preserve its sovereignty and independence. The strengthening of relations with the Soviet Union serves Syria's national interests and the attainment of the goals of the whole Arab nation, the struggle of peoples for peace, progress and freedom.

The malicious attacks by the official Egyptian propaganda at the results of the visit of Hafiz al-Asad to the Soviet Union, the newspaper writes, reflect the concern of our enemies over the strengthening of the Arab front of staunchness and rebuff to the capitulatory versions of Middle East settlement. The opponents of the just cause of the Arabs fully realise that the results of this fruitful and successful visit will have a positive effect on the development of the Middle East situation and will contribute to stepping up the struggle against the conspiracy of imperialism and reaction, which strive to impose capitulation on the Arabs.

PLO CONDEMNS ANTI-PALESTINIAN HYSTERIA IN EGYPT

LD012324Y Moscow TASS in English 2019 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

["Road of Treason"--TASS headline]

[Text] Beirut, March 1, TASS--The Palestine Liberation Organization strongly condemned the anti-Palestinian hysteria which is continuing in Egypt. In the opinion of the PLO leadership, the measures taken by the Egyptian authorities against the Palestinians will reduce the 100,000 Palestinians in Egypt to the same rightless status as in the Israel-occupied territories.

The official Palestine information agency (WAFA) qualified the anti-Palestinian statements, made in the Egyptian parliament by Prime Minister Salim, as an insult to the Palestinian people. The As-Sadat regime, the agency points out, is striving to exploit the recent act of terrorism in Cyprus for inciting hatred towards the Palestinians and preparing the ground to conclude a separate deal with Israel, fully ignoring the rights of the Arab people of Palestine. As-Sadat, the agency stresses, known perfectly well that the terrorists, who assassinated in Nicosia Yusuf as-Siba'i, the secretary general of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, are in no way linked with the Palestine resistance movement.

They belonged to the groupings, which are resorting to terrorism in order to cover up their true goals, directed against the PLO and the entire Arab nation. Knowing this, the Egyptian president, nevertheless, insisted that an unprecedented anti-Palestinian campaign should be launched so as to "justify" Egypt's complete break with the Palestinian cause.

In conclusion the WAFA agency expressed the conviction that the perfidious policy of the Egyptian leadership vis-a-vis the Palestinians would not shake the resolution of the Arab people of Palestine to continue the just struggle for their lawful national rights.

London, March 1, TASS--The newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES says that a complete break is gathering head between Cairo and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Referring to sources that are close to the PLO, the newspaper reports on the possibility of a wholesale eviction of Palestinians from Egypt. Many Palestinian students, declared as "undesirable elements", have already been ordered to leave the country.

The newspaper DAILY TELEGRAPH expresses the view that in deciding to break with the PLO, As-Sadat hopes for a new Palestine leadership, which would welcome "peace" on the Western Bank of the Jordan River, and thereby, agree to Tel Aviv's plan of granting this territory limited autonomy parallel with the perpetuation of Israeli military presence there.

New York, March 1, TASS--The newspaper New York TIMES notes that Egypt is deliberately aggravating the crisis in its relations with the PLO in order to pave the way for the signing of a separate peace treaty with Israel.

EGYPTIAN WAFD PARTY CHAIRMAN ON ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE

LD011920Y Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 1, TASS--Fu'ad Saraj ad-Din, chairman of the recently-founded bourgeois landlords party "New Wafd" was included in the Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Union (ASU) today by President as-Sadat's decree.

The party is known to have been revived on the basis of the WAFD Party which was banned in view of its antinational policy and dissolved after [words indistinct]. The leadership of the New Wafd Party constantly emphasizes the continuity and identity of the party's political goals with those of its predecessor. The inclusion of Saraj ad-Din in the ASU Central Committee is the natural continuation of the present Egyptian leadership's course toward enhancing the positions of reactionary elements in Egyptian society.

ISRAELI AIR FORCE CHIEF SEEKS BIGGER SALES OF U.S. ARMS

LD012350Y Moscow TASS in English 2115 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 1, TASS--The commander of Israel's Air Force, Major General David Ivri, left here today for a two-week visit to the United States. He will have talks with representatives of the Pentagon and will also visit enterprises of the General Dynamics Company, producing F-16 fighters.

The U.S. administration recently decided to sell Israel seventy-five F-16 and fifteen F-15 fighters. It is planned to begin their deliveries in 1981. It is believed here that one of the purposes of David Ivri's visit is to speed up these deliveries and also to reach agreement on bigger sales of American fighters to Israel.

The trip of General Ivri coincided in time with the submission to the U.S. Congress of the administration's proposals to grant Israel aid in the fiscal year of 1979 amounting to 1,785 million dollars, chiefly as "security supporting assistance." Commentators draw attention to the fact that Nicholas Veliotes, a representative of the State Department, declared this Tuesday at the meeting of a House International Relations Subcommittee that the U.S. Government did not exclude the possibility of granting Israel additional military aid.

(?It is) common knowledge that Israel was recently allowed to spend 107 million dollars from the American credits on the development and production of the heavy Charriot tank. Tel Aviv secured Pentagon's consent to purchase several score Cobra helicopters, equipped with anti-tank missiles. In the summer of 1977 a large consignment of arms worth 115 million dollars was shipped from the United States to Israel. It included 200 anti-tank missiles, 700 armoured carriers and other military supplies.

This shows that Israel's supporters in the Congress and in the U.S. Government are doing everything to satisfy most fully its applications for Americans arms.

ISRAELI, LEBANESE RIGHTIST ALLIANCE HAS DANGEROUS GOALS

LD012304Y Moscow TASS in English 1914 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 1, TASS--"An open secret" is how the NEW TIMES [NOVOYE VREMYA] describes the alliance of Israel with the rightist Christian forces in the south of Lebanon. The weekly draws attention to Tel Aviv's official admission that "Israel firmly supports" them. This alliance pursues far-reaching and dangerous goals. It is in the south of Lebanon, the magazine notes, that a strike is being prepared against the Palestine movement. Moreover, dominating this highland area, situated where the borders of Israel, Syria and Lebanon converge, is regarded by Tel Aviv as a kind of key to strategic control over the entire area. Lastly, those who would like to create a new bridgehead, [few words indistinct] against the liberation forces in the Middle East, are associated with plans for the actual dismemberment of Lebanon.

Because of all these reasons, the weekly points out, building up tension in Lebanon is fraught with special danger. All the more so, that the situation is far from tranquil in other parts of the Middle East and northern Africa. Events already show [words indistinct] even designs for such deals, aimed at covering up the class [word indistinct] of pro-imperialist forces in the Middle East, are fraught with the danger of an explosion [words indistinct] comprehensive, just settlement of the Middle East problems, through the resumption of the Geneva conference, can ensure peace in the area, NOVOYE VREMYA emphasizes.

Continuing Tension in South

LD011408Y Moscow TASS in English 1357 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 1 TASS--TASS correspondent Anatoliy Borisov reports: The situation in the south of Lebanon remains tense. After five days of relative lull, conservative forces supported by Israeli artillery tried to capture the populated locality of 'Aytarun yesterday. But the armed detachments of the national patriotic forces and the Palestine resistance movement succeeded in checking the advance of the right-wing forces and made them retreat to their positions.

In the course of last night, Israeli artillery shelled south Lebanese populated localities of Ibil As Saqy, 'Arnun, Nabatiyah, Shakrah and the outskirts of the town of Bint Jubayl. As a result of shelling there are injured among the civilian population, tens of houses were damaged, shops and public buildings destroyed and power transmission and water supply lines broken. Israeli patrol lay ambushes and search people in Mays Al Jabal and adjoining areas. Israeli war planes are engaged in permanent air reconnaissance over southern Lebanon. Yesterday, they were also seen over Al Biqa Valley. Eyewitnesses report that a large concentration of troops is noted in the areas of Marj 'Uyun, Mays Al Jabal, Al Houl and other populated localities captured by the Israeli Army and detachments of the conservative forces. This is evidence of the fact that they are preparing a new wide offensive against the positions of the national patriotic forces and the Palestine resistance movement.

In connection with a fresh escalation of tensions in the south of Lebanon, the central political council of the national patriotic forces issued a statement saying that in spite of the provocative actions by Israel and the conservative forces, the national patriotic forces intend together with the Palestine resistance movement to continue unilaterally measures aimed at normalizing the situation. It is reported that detachments of the national patriotic forces and the Palestine resistance movement have already been withdrawn from some populated localities. The leadership of the national patriotic forces believes, the statement stresses, that the country's southern areas are an inseparable part of Lebanon and that the Lebanese central authorities must restore their control there as soon as possible.

Local observers stress that the stepped up armed provocations in the south of Lebanon, the mounting anti-Palestine campaign in Egypt and the calls of the conservative "Lebanese front" for ending the Palestinian presence in the country are closely interconnected and are links in the conspiracy against the Palestine resistance movement. These provocations play into the hand of those who strive to prevent a normalization of the situation in Lebanon and make the Arabs agree to separate deals with Israel, the Beirut newspaper AN-NIDA stresses.

SOVIET DELEGATION TO IRAN TO DISCUSS GAS PIPELINE

LD282106Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A Soviet delegation headed by the deputy chairman of the Committee for External Economic Relations, Iliodor Kulev, has left Moscow for Iran. The delegation will discuss a new agreement on building the second trans-Iranian gas pipeline. Gas will be supplied through this pipeline via the Soviet Union to Federal Germany, France, Austria and Czechoslovakia. It's to be laid parallel to the existing pipeline. Iran has already repaid the construction of the first pipeline with gas supplies.

CEMA, IRAQI PETROLEUM OFFICIALS HOLD BAGHDAD TALKS

LD271720Y Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad, February 27, TASS--The meeting of oil and gas industry specialists of the CMEA member countries and Iraq has ended here.

The participants in the meeting outlined prospects for multilateral cooperation in the field of oil and gas. They also mapped out specific projects, in whose implementation the CMEA member countries will take part, and also reached agreement to study questions in connection with the development of the oil industry in the Iraqi Republic.

The sides signed a final document, which is to be presented for examination at the meeting of the working group for the oil and gas industry scheduled to be held in Moscow within the framework of the joint session of the CMEA and the Iraqi Republic.

Participants in the meeting had a conversation with the deputy minister of the oil industry As-Samarrai. The latter reaffirmed Iraq's intention to strengthen and broaden cooperation with the socialist states in various fields.

TUNISIAN CP STATEMENT SCORES TRADE UNION SUPPRESSION

LD281513Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Paris, 23 February--A Tunisian Communist Party [PCT] leadership statement in connection with the exacerbation of the domestic political situation in the country has been disseminated here. It notes that the repression against the leadership of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor (UGTT) and against trade union cadres are threatening the progressive and democratic forces of Tunisia. The precautionary general strike announced by the UGTT, the Communist Party statement says, was not a call for revolt or insurrection but a protest against the threat to its independence as a result of the toughening of the position of the Destourian Socialist Party and the government vis-a-vis the trade unions. The PCT rejects as not conforming with actual reality the allegation that the UGTT is not an independent trade union organization.

The statement points out that the repressions are striking a blow against the most precious gain of the working people--the independent trade union organization, which has reflected their aspirations, provided a defense against the offensive by capital, and has begun to use its influence for the development of the country along the path of progress and democracy in accordance with the interests of the Tunisian people and in the context of a genuine national alliance, taking account of the new economic, social and political tasks of the contemporary stage. The Tunisian communists are convinced that it is impossible to resolve the basic problems confronting the country through repressions. They advocate the release of arrested trade union figures, the lifting of the state of emergency in the country and the restoration of democratic freedoms.

NICOSIA PAPER DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL OF U.S., UK PLANES

LD011304Y Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia, March 1 TASS--The newspaper HARAVGHI comes out against the stay of American reconnaissance aircraft in Cyprus. The aircraft are in the island on the plea of exercising control over the ceasefire in the Middle East. The newspaper points out that both U.S. imperialism and the "sovereign" British bases which use spy planes in Cyprus territory are disturbers of peace security in the Middle East and other areas. Expressing the opinion of the country's public, the newspaper is calling for an end to the existence of foreign military bases on Cyprus soil.

NATIONAL STRIKE IN GREECE PROTESTS WAGE FREEZE

LD011222Y Moscow TASS in English 1147 GMT 01 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Athens, March 1, TASS--Tens of thousands of factory and office workers of Athens, Piraievs, Salonika, Larisa and other cities and towns of the country called a 24-hour strike. In answer to the call of trade union organisations, workers of industrial enterprises, banks and shops, construction workers, drivers of trolleybuses and buses demand higher pay, a shorter work week, equal pay for women and young workers, the cancellation of the anti-workers' legislation, which limits trade union rights and rights of the working people.

The action by the Greek factory and office workers today is an answer to the attempts of the government to shift the burdens of the economic crisis onto the shoulders of the working people. The yoke of monopolies, the incessant inflation and permanent growth of prices, writes the newspaper of Greek communists RIZOPASTIS, make the position of the working people desperate, are conducive to a further decline in their living standards. In spite of all this, the Government of Greece is trying to present the demand of the factory and office workers as unlawful. Minister of coordination and planning Georgios Rallis described them as "instigatory".

The statement by the minister has caused a sharply negative reaction among a number of the country's trade union federation. Thus, a committee of trade unions supporting the biggest opposition party, the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), notes that today's strike is an absolutely legitimate one. It is an answer to the anti-national policy of unilateral wage freeze.

The Greek press reports that in connection with the strike tight security measures have been taken in the country. Considerable police forces have been concentrated in major centres of the strike movement, in particular, in Athens.

III. 2 Mar 78 U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

MORE MATERIAL ON HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT

ETHIOPIA WILLING TO NEGOTIATE

ID011424Y Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 1 Mar 78 ID

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 1, TASS--The Government of Ethiopia again reaffirms its adherence to the principles of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and does not object to the mediation of the OAU committee for settling the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. Talks between Ethiopia and Somalia, however, can be started only after complete withdrawal of Somali troops from Ethiopian territory. There can be no question of talks until Somali troops that invaded our land are fully removed from Ethiopia. This was stated, by Berhanu Baye, member of the Permanent Committee of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (P.M.A.C.) of Ethiopia, head of the P.M.A.C. foreign relations department. At the head of an Ethiopian delegation he left for Lagos to deliver a special message from Mengistu Haile Mariam, P.M.A.C. chairman, to the head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria.

Western Arms for Somalia

ID020114Y Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 1 Mar 78 ID

[Text] A large quantity of arms and ammunition made in the NATO countries has recently been shown to foreign journalists accredited to Ethiopia. The arms have been captured during the counteroffensive against the troops of the Somali Army which invaded the country. Our commentator Nokolay Gratsianov writes in this connection:

The arms captured from the enemy clearly show that the Atlantic countries are intervening in the events in the Horn of Africa on the side of the Somali aggressors. Contrary to the official statements by the Western politicians on the nonparticipation in the Somali-Ethiopian conflict, military aid is constantly arriving in Somalia. U.S. armored cars, West German and Italian armored cars and [word indistinct]. British and French missiles, gun and ammunition are being ferried by sea and air to Magadiscio and other points of the Somali territory. To camoflage this, a (?special) system is being used. The arms are coming via third countries which acquire them in Western Europe--Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran. The main party of this operation is being carried out in the NATO Mediterranean bases.

These data and facts are well known from the reports carried by the Western information agencies and press. They reveal that the Mogadiscio authorities are holding secret negotiations with Western emissaries on new arms consignments. It is also known that at the conference of the representatives of five NATO countries, which was held in Washington at the end of January, the United States, Britain, Italy, the FRG and France discussed the question of multilateral assistance to Somalia and, among other things, the supply of arms. NATO participation in the adventures of the Somali aggressors is explained by [words indistinct]. The Atlantic circles consider the Horn of Africa as an important strategic region from which it is possible to control and also orient the policies of the African states for the benefit of the imperialists.

In addition to this, the military-industrial complex on both sides of the Atlantic, which is enriching itself with the production and sale of arms, is also closely interested in the instigation of the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. NATO actions and military [word indistinct] the aggressors are hindering the settlement of the conflict in the Horn of Africa which can only be solved in a political manner. This is what Ethiopia, OAU, the Soviet Union and other countries interested in the maintenance of peace in Africa insist upon.

Somali 'Invasion Threat' Claim

ID011125Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 78 p 3 ID

[From the V. Vinogradov international military-political review: "Regarding Events in the Horn of Africa"]

[Text] According to reports from Addis Ababa, as a result of successful offensives in the last few weeks, the Ethiopian Armed Forces and people's militia detachments have dealt telling blows on the aggressor who invaded the country. The enemy has been forced to retreat 70 km from Harar city and 60 km from Dire Dawa.

While the Somali Army is retreating in many sectors and sustaining serious losses, the country's rulers are desperately appealing for support from Western powers and reactionary Arab regimes. In response to these appeals, more and more foreign ships loaded with tanks, guns, and shells are arriving in Mogadiscio and other ports and aircraft carrying ammunition, small arms and spare parts are landing at the airports. All these armaments are immediately sent to Somali Army units occupying considerable areas of Ethiopia. As France's LE MONDE notes, military deliveries to Somalia from West European countries were sanctioned by the United States at the conference of five Western powers 22 January in Washington.

By implementing broad miliatry deliveries the NATO countries and their placement in the Arab east are effectively encouraging the aggressor and preventing a peaceful settlement of the conflict. It should be noted that, as the foreign press has reported, China is also supplying military equipment to Somalia, making its contribution to fueling tension in the Horn of Africa.

Under conditions in which the Somali Army has begun to be defeated and to withdraw towards its border, the Mogadiscio authorities, their Western patrons and reactionary Arab regimes have embarked on a propaganda maneuver. As though on command they have begun to talk of some Ethiopian "invasion threat" to Somalia. It is noteworthy that the same Western powers did not utter a single word of condemnation when aggressor troops invaded Ethiopia's territory. And now absurd fabrications are being disseminated regarding Ethiopia's intentions and aims. At the same time "cease-fire" proposals are being put forward in Mogadiscio and a number of Western capitals, but the aggressor is still refusing obstinately to withdraw his troops from Ethiopia.

Rebuffing the unseemly actions of the NATO countries and the unworthy propaganda campaign against Ethiopia, Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC], has declared that his country is fighting a defensive war, the sole aim of which is total expulsion of the aggrssor from Ethiopian soil. "Ethiopia has no territorial claims on neighboring states," the PMAC head has said. "We are merely striving to guarantee the security and inviolability of our borders and have no intention of invading Somali territory after liberating the Ogaden." He also stressed that any talks on establishing good-neighborly relations with Somalia can be held only after the aggressor's last soldier has left Ethiopian soil.

The position adopted by the Ethiopian leaders is encountering total understanding and support from African peoples, the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries and the progressive world public. As the Nairobi TIMES stresses, Ethiopia cannot tolerate the presence of Somali interventionists on its territory and is perfectly entitled to use weapons to expel them. Peace in the Horn of Africa can be established only with the observance of a complete and unconditional withdrawal from Ethiopian territory by Somali troops and of the principle of noninterference by countries in one another's internal affairs.

UK Call To Supply Somalia

LD012146Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1532 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa--The fact that expansionist circles in Somalia, who have unleashed an aggressive war against Ethiopia, are at present time receiving military aid from NATO member Western powers will not shake the resolute intention of revolutionary Ethiopia to drive the aggressor from its land and to fully liberate its territory, said a spokesman of the Ethiopian Ministry of Information and National Guidance today. He sharply criticized the position taken up by a group of British conservative members of Parliament who visited Somalia a few days ago and upon their return to London made an appeal for increased armed supplies to the Somali rulers. One of the members of this parliamentary delegation, Winston Churchill, tried to whitewash the Somali aggression by saying that it does not represent a serious threat to peace.

The blatant propaganda lie being voiced by Winston Churchill and people like him, says the statement from the Ethiopian Ministry of Information and National Guidance is not surprising: Such methods are generally resorted to by people who nurture hate for forces of progress.

OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ENDS IN TRIPOLI

LD011802Y Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 1, TASS--The 30th session of the Ministerial Council of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has ended here. In their final resolution the session participants stressed the need of strengthening the united actions of the African states in the struggle against the intrigues of imperialism and raction, against the attempts of the Western powers to interfere in the affairs of the African peoples. The delegates of 40 African states spoke up resolutely in support of the struggle waged by the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia against the racialist regimes of Salisbury and Pretoria, for national independence and self-determination. The session reaffirmed that the South-West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) is the sole lawful representative of the Namibian people, strongly condemned the attempts of the imperialist states to interfere in the matters linked with the solution of the Namibian problem. The ministers also went on record for the allout support and assistance to the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front in its struggle against the racialists of southern Rhodesia.

The delegates of the session of the OAU Ministerial Council stigmatized the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and came out in support of the lawful rights of the Arab people of Palestine to create their own independent state. The session holds that the Palestine problem should be regarded as one of the problems of the African national liberation movement. Its delegates strongly condemned the Israeli leadership for its expansionist course, for its contacts with the South African racialists, backed the proposal to impose a political and economic boycott on the Israeli state. The session resolutely condemned the attempts of the imperialist Western states to interfere in the internal affairs of the African peoples. The OAU foreign ministers resolved, specifically , that the national elections in Namibia should be carried out under the aegis of the United Nations without any political pressure of the South African regime, supported as they are by the Western powers. The participants of the session came out for the solution of all the disputes among the African states through peaceful negotiations, on the basis of the OAU principles and in the spirit of African unity.

IZVESTIYA: LAO AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

ID011509Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 4 ID

[Text] TASS--So' Phetlasi, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, has arrived in Moscow.

VIETNAM RADIO CLAIMS CAMBODIAN AGGRESSION, STALLING

ID011522Y Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT 1 Mar 78 ID

["Dragging Out the Solution of the Problem"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, March 1 TASS--It is worthy of regret that Kampuchean authorities refuse to accept the proposals contained in the February 5th statement of the Vietnamese Government, says a commentary broadcast by the Voice of Vietnam radio station. As is known, in that statement the government and people of Vietnam reiterated their invariable principled position--resolutely to protect the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam and also respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Kampuchea and other countries. The statement sets forth a number of proposals directed at the speediest settlement of relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea.

But the Kampuchean side, the radio commentary says further, continues to send its armed forces to intrude into Vietnamese territory, is subjecting it to shelling, is procrastinating the solution of the question of settling relations between the two countries. If the Kampuchean authorities believe that the Vietnamese Government's proposals contain points that do not satisfy them, they should come out with some constructive initiative of their own. But all they do is to groundlessly contend that Vietnam's proposals "contain nothing new" or that "talks signify surrender". How can the resolution of the border be termed as surrender? It is clear that the Kampuchean side is deliberately pursuing its policy which serves the intentions and aims of imperialism and international reaction that are harbouring sinister plans in respect of Southeast Asia.

The Kampuchean authorities, the radio stresses, ought to think about responsibility to their people and history. They must heed the sincere advice of true friends.

WFTU EXPRESSES CONCERN AT VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN CONFLICT

ID172044Y Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 17 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Prague, February 17, TASS--The World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] is watching with concern over the serious turn that events are taking on the border between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] and Democratic Kampuchea, says a statement by the federation circulated here. The long friendship and combat solidarity between the Vietnamese and the Kampuchean peoples were important factors in the victory over colonialists and imperialists. The deterioration of relations between the two countries only play into the hands of their enemies. The WFTU believes that the interests of unity, extremely important for solving the postwar restoration tasks facing the two countries, demand that the border conflict be solved, as proposed by the SRV, through peaceful negotiations based on the principles of respect for independence, territorial [words indistinct] workers and peoples of the two countries.

SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR DPRK

SK2811502 Moscow in Korean 1330 GMT 27 Feb 78 SK

[Text] A Soviet trade union delegation has left for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Korean General Federation of Trade Unions. Comrade Matskyavichyus, secretary of the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, heads the delegation.

Comrade Matskyavichyus, in an interview with a reporter from this station before departure said: [passage indistinct] We always welcome our friends from the DPRK and accept their request to visit the DPRK with satisfaction. In these reciprocal visits, meetings with workers, office workers and working people in the agricultural sector take place. In this way we learn much more about each other's life and efforts.

The trade unions of our two countries exchange films, books and photos for exhibition on a regular basis. We participate in World Federation of Trade Union [WFTU] activities, international meetings and conferences with [word indistinct] national organizations.

Comrade Matskyavichyus continued: we are well informed about the effective large-scale projects that the Korean General Federation of Trade Unions is carrying out for the welfare of working people of the republic and its active participation in social construction. The role of trade unions as the most popular social organizations in our socialist countries is indeed great. Presently, the Soviet trade unions, consisting of more than 100 million working people, are undertaking responsible tasks related to the broad national development program proposed at the 25th CPSU Congress.

Soviet working people this year--the third year of the 10th 5-Year Plan--are broadly conducting a socialist production competition to successfully accomplish the initial portion of the year's task. [words indistinct] We are firmly confident that the development of solidarity and cooperation between trade unions of the Soviet Union, the DPRK and other fraternal nations will help in successfully carrying out the social construction tasks in these countries and contribute to consolidating the activities of the WFTU based on a class and anti-imperialistic foundation.

The Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions regards as one of its important tasks maximum support for realizing the CPSU's policy for developing and consolidating friendship and cooperation between the socialist countries. Our trade union [word indistinct] the pullout of the puppet forces from South Korea and [word indistinct] for national reunification on a peaceful and democratic basis.

ROK-U.S. MILITARY EXERCISES 'OBVIOUSLY PROVOCATIVE'

LD2821042 Moscow TASS in English 2048 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Pyongyang, February 28, TASS--The First Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division of the United States, stationed in the Hawaii Islands, landed today at the air force base near the South Korean town of Pusan. This unit, says the newspaper NODONG SINMUN is known for its brutal actions during the Korean War of 1950-1953.

It was moved there from a distance of 3,500 miles to take part in the joint American-South Korean manoeuvres, code-named "Team Spirit-78". Taking part in the exercises, which will start on March 7, will be over 62,000 South Korean and almost 30,000 American servicemen. According to reports from Seoul, a battery of "Lance" tactical missiles is to be rushed to Korea from Oklahoma state. Expected to arrive also is the 18th Tactical Air Force group. A large squadron of ships of the 7th U.S. Fleet, led by the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk is being concentrated in the area of the Japanese island of Okinawa.

This military activity, the newspaper stresses, is of an obviously provocative nature. The manoeuvres are calculated to strengthen the military machine of the South Korean regime.

JSP, OTHER GROUPS CONDEMN INCREASING MILITARIZATION

OW201527Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 17 Feb 78 OW

[Vladimir Tsvetov commentary]

[Text] Tokyo--The Japan Socialist Party [JSP] and other opposition parties, SOHYO (General Council of Trade Unions), and other progressive public organizations have decided to launch a campaign on 18 February against the ever-intensifying militarization of Japan.

The intensification of Japan's militarization is assuming alarming proportions as is shown by the military budget, which has increased two and a half to three times every 5 years. The government of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] has decided to purchase the latest models of fighter-bombers and antisubmarine patrol craft from the United States. Military leaders are studying the question of building aircraft carriers. All of this will ultimately change the so-called Self Defense Forces into mighty assault forces.

In a statement released on 15 February, the JSP said that these actions of the ruling circles constitute an overt infringement on the constitution and pose a challenge to the fervent desire of the public for peace.

In order to justify their militarist ambitions, the Japanese reactionaries are contending that the military capacity of the country should be made to correspond to the prevailing international situation. However, the current international situation is characterized by the relaxation of tension. Accordingly, the public holds, if Japan's military capacity is to be made to correspond to the international situation, it should not be increased but decreased.

The aforementioned statement of the JSP analyzes the real reasons for the intense militarism in Japan. As the statement points out, the foremost reason is that the Japanese war industries are interested in the arms race and in the implementation of an expansionist policy. Yoshihiro Inayama, chairman of the Japan Association of Steel Industries, has brazenly declared that the recession cannot be ended without a war.

Another reason is that Japan is allied militarily with the United States. U.S. Under Secretary of State Cooper admonished Japan--the one-time enemy--for depending on the United States for defense rather than defending itself. Spurred by this admonition, Japanese military leaders immediately began drawing up new military plans.

A truly durable peace and international security must be insured by concrete steps toward ending the arms race and toward disarmament. All countries are obligated to do their best toward that end.

JAPANESE CONFERENCE OF PEACE CHAMPIONS HELD

LD271138Y Moscow TASS in English 1125 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 27, TASS--A conference of peace champions ended in the town of Shizouka. It was sponsored jointly by the all-Japanese council for a ban on the nuclear and hydrogen weapon, the national congress for a ban on the nuclear weapon, the Japanese Peace Committee, trade union and other mass democratic organisations of that country.

The conference, which was attended by more than 3,000 delegates, who came from all parts of the country, has marked the start of a series of measures annually held by Japan's progressive public on the occasion of the "Bikini Day." It is marked in tribute to the memory of the Japanese fishermen from the schooner Fukuryu-Maru No 5, who were exposed to lethal radioactive irradiation as a result of the explosion of the American hydrogen bomb conduced in Bikini Atoll in the Pacific on March 1, 1954.

The delegates of the massive anti-war meeting forcused their attention on the urgent tasks of widening actions for a full ban on the nuclear weapon and for disarmament, in defence of peace and democracy. They exchanged experience of struggle for real aid to the victims of the atomic bombings and discussed problems of a further consolidation of the ranks of the Japanese peace champions.

The delegates to the conference issued an appeal calling for further stepping up the struggle for the elimination forever of the nuclear threat and against the attempts at re-militarising the country. Of the greatest significance at present for Japan, which experienced the horrors of the atomic bombings, is resolute rebuff to the dangerous plans by some circles to draw Japan into the nuclear arms race.

Representatives of the country's peace forces evaluated the results of the conference as a fresh step towards the unficiation of the Japanese movement for a ban on the nuclear weapons and stressed the necessity of establishing in the future a united national organisation of fighters for nuclear disarmament. They expressed determination to contribute towards a successful holding of the special U.N. General Assembly session on disarmament scheduled for May-June this year and step up actions for the holding of the national campaign of collecting 35 million signatures under the appeal to its delegates.

CARRIER MOVEMENTS PROMPT ANTI-U.S. OUTCRY

LD020550Y Moscow TASS in English 0532 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 TASS--This morning the U.S. aircraft carrier Midway left the Japanese port of Yokosuka where the base of the U.S. Seventh Fleet is situated. The aircraft carrier has been there since February 21.

The unceasing calls at Yokosuka by the Midway which, as Graham Claytor, U.S. secretary of the Navy, stated recently, plays the role of a floating base of aircraft designed for delivering nuclear strikes arouse resolute protests of the country's democratic public. The public demand elimination of U.S. bases in Japan's territory and annulment of the Japanese-U.S. security treaty.

ZA RUBEZHOM LAUDS BREZHNEV ACTIONS LEADING TO MEDAL AWARD

LD281605Y Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 9 Signed to Press 23 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Persistently and Consistently"]

[Excerpt] The award of the Order of Victory to Marshal of the Soviet Union L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the USSR Defense Council, on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, is a recognition of L.I. Brezhnev's great contribution to the victory of the Soviet people and their armed forces in the Great Patriotic War and his outstanding services in strengthening the country's defense capability and elaborating and consistently implementing the Soviet state's Leninist, peace-loving foreign policy, which reliably insures the country's development under peaceful conditions. As a man who passed through the crucible of the war and is well aware of the great price of victory and of the extremely high value of peace both for our people and for all peoples, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev resolutely and passionately defends lasting peace on our planet in the persistent and uncompromising struggle that the Soviet Union is waging in the international arena together with the fraternal socialist countries and all the world's peace-loving forces. This award is a tribute of lofty respect and profound gratitude to a politician and statesman who devotes all his efforts for the sake of the bright future for not only our motherland's people but also for all mankind. "The communist who survived the fiery days of the Great Patriotic War and who has done so much to strengthen the defense capability of the motherland of October is now the real architect of detente," Bulgaria's ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME notes in this connection, expressing many people's thoughts and feelings. "Not only the USSR's combat, creative and space exploits but also the elaboration, implementation and successes of the peace program, adopted at the 24th congress and further developed at the 25th CPSU Congress, and the strategy and scope of the Soviet peace offensive and initiatives, are indissolubly linked with the name and tireless activity of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium."

MASHEROV SPEAKS AT BELORUSSIAN KOMSOMOL CONGRESS

LD011932Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Today in Minsk and Yerevan, Komsomol congresses of Belorussia and Armenia opened. Our correspondents report:

Every third young worker of Belorussia is a shock worker of communist labor. During the 10th 5-Year Plan, there are 45,000 young enthusiasts working. The Komsomol organizations of this republic are overseeing the building, reconstruction and technological reequipping of the textile and light industries enterprises. They have decided to mark the year of the 60th anniversary of the all-union Komsomol with shock labor.

At the congress, a speech was delivered by Comrade Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party of Belorussia Central Committee.

STATE BANK SETS HIGHER RATE FOR RUBLE AGAINST DOLLAR

LD011830Y Moscow in Czech and Slovak to Czechoslovakia 1700 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet State Bank today set a higher rate for the ruble against the U.S. dollar. The value of $100 will now be R68.48 instead of R68.75, the rate set only 5 days ago. In addition to the parity of the dollar, the parity of 28 other currencies has been cut while the parity of 4 currencies has been increased, including the West German mark and the Swiss franc.

MORE ON GLUSHKOV'S 1 MAR PRESS CONFERENCE ON PRICES

LD011444Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Glushkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Committee for Prices, held a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow today. The conference dealt with a report published today on regulating retail prices for individual goods and services.

Comrade Glushkov stressed that the level of state retail prices for basic consumer goods remains unchanged. However, the conditions governing the production and marketing of articles are changing appreciably, and this in turn requires that corresponding alterations be made in their cost. The new prices for individual goods and services that have been introduced as from today are a planned measure. The cost of a large group of high-demand goods has been reduced 10-30 percent. At the same time, prices have gone up on certain nonessential goods and services. Taken as a whole, the price changes will not have any considerable effect on the Soviet people's living standard. The state will not derive any income from this. All additional means will be used to compensate for the cost of goods that have been reduced in price.

Comrade Glushkov continued by saying that the fulfillment of the social program of the 10th 5-Year Plan period envisages far-reaching measures directed at raising the material well-being of the working people. This year alone, an additional R3.2 billion have been allocated for implementing new measures in this sphere, and this at a time when the earnings of individual categories of workers will continue to rise. Public consumer funds have gone up to R105 billion annually, and real per capita income, taking into account the prices published in the press today, will go up 3 percent.

Comrade Glushkov reminded the journalists that compared with the postwar years of 1947, prices in our country have more than halved. The price policy includes not only guarantees that they remain stable but also a gradual reduction of prices for goods in proportion to the accumulation of resources.

Further Report

LD021130Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2100 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] As of the 1st of March, some retail prices have been changed in the Soviet Union. There are reductions in the prices of TV sets, refrigerators, some kinds of textiles, clothing and shoes. Simultaneously, prices are raised of jewellery, vintage wines, petrol as well as coffee and some other imported goods.

Commenting on changes in the retail prices, the chairman of the USSR State Prices Committee, Nikolay Glushkov, said this is a planned realinement of prices. On the one hand, it is linked with the fact that some kinds of goods are produced in sufficient amounts in the country and we can reduce their prices. On the other hand, the outlay on the production or import of some groups has gone up and in this case we are raising retail prices.

Answering a question how this will affect the cost of living here, Nikolay Glushkov stressed that the retail prices of all the main foodstuffs remain unchanged. Meat, bread, butter, cheese, sugar, cereals, fish and many other foodstuffs will cost as much as they did 10 years ago. The present level of prices of meat remains unchanged even since 1962, and those of bread since 1954. There have been years with poor harvests sometimes; nevertheless, prices of bread have remained at the same low level in the Soviet Union.

At the present time, said Nikolay Glushkov, meat, butter and other dairy products, fruit, vegetables and potatoes are sold to the public at prices below their production cost. To maintain such a level of prices of these foodstuffs, annual subsidies are made from the national budget. This year, the subsidies will exceed 23,000 million rubles [figure as heard]. Just to compare, this country spends much less on defense: 17,200 million rubles.

Out of the foodstuffs, we have raised the price of coffee and chocolate. These prices were unchanged since 1954, but we buy all our coffee and cocoa beans from abroad and prices there, particularly in the past few years, have risen considerably. For this reason, we had to change domestic prices. This was also the reason for increasing the retail prices of some imported beverages, say, whisky, gin and vintage wines.

Commenting on changes in the prices of some manufactured goods, Nikolay Glushkov said price reductions affect a whole group of commodities. Many models of refrigerators and TV sets will be cheaper. In this case, reductions will reach as much as 20 percent. Prices are also reduced by 10 to 30 percent on some kinds of textiles, clothing and shoes. But the main group of manufactured goods in mass demand will be sold at former prices.

In view of the sizeable increase in the mining costs, prices are raised of jewellery made of gold and platinum. This is also the reason for the increase in the price of petrol. Its price will now vary from 15 to 20 kopecks per liter. To compare these prices with the petrol prices in West European countries, the new prices in the Soviet Union will be approximately one-half of the West European ones. Yet, the fares on all kinds of municipal transport, including bus service between the cities, will be unchanged.

House rent remains here at the same low level. In the Soviet Union rents, including the payment for gas, electricity, hot water and other facilities doesn't exceed 3 to 5 percent of the average family budget. It goes without saying that such social services as all kinds of medical assistance and education remain free for all the Soviet citizens.

DECISION ISSUED ON FURTHER MEASURES FOR SPRING FIELDWORK

LD011204Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have adopted a decision on additional measures for preparing and carrying out spring fieldwork in 1978. The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers impose the obligation on party, administrative and agricultural organs to pay particular attention to the proper preparation of seeds, machinery and tractors, the timely delivery and stockpiling at farms of fuel and lubricants, the highly efficient utilization of all irrigated and drained lands and the insuring that farms are up to strength in machine operation. The decision stressed the need to develop socialist competition among agricultural machine operators for the achievement of the highest possible labor productivity and the maximum utilization of the technical capabilities of machines.

The Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Engineering, the Ministry of Engineering for Animal Husbandry and Fodder Production, the Ministry of the Motor Vehicle Industry and other ministries and departments are to insure timely deliveries to agriculture during the first half of the year, on the account of funds set aside for 1978, of spare parts, agricultural machinery and tractor attachments, according to the schedule laid down.

The councils of ministers of the union republics, the Selkhoztekhnika Association, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries and organs are to take immediate measures for the delivery of fuel and lubricants to kolkhozes and sovkhozes with the aim of establishing reserves of oil products in the necessary quantity of each farm before fieldwork begins. The councils of ministers of the union republics are authorized to bring in tractor drivers and machine operators from industrial, transport and other enterprises, institutions and organizations for spring fieldwork at kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The method of payment for tractor drivers and machine operators detailed for spring fieldwork in operation in 1977 is retained.

The councils of ministers of union and autonomous republics, krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms, soyuzselkhoztekhnika and the Ministry of Agriculture are asked to take measures without delay to speed up the dispatch from railway stations of all freight addressed to the selkhoztekhnika associations, kolkhozes and sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises and organizations.

The decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers also lays down other measures directed toward the successful carrying out of spring fieldwork.

The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers express conviction that party and administrative organs, agricultural, trade union and Komsomol organizations, kolkhozes and sovkhozes industrial enterprises and transport organizations will take all measures to insure that spring fieldwork is carried out at a high agrotechnical level.

Agronomist on Spring Fieldwork

LD012130Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have adopted a decision on supplementary measures for preparing and implementing spring fieldwork in 1978. Our commentator Petr Akimovich Zabaznyy, merited agronomist of the RSFSR, reports:

By this decision, managers and specialists of agricultural organs, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, are obliged to pay special attention to organizing the preparation of seeds and equipment and to insuring that spring fieldwork is done at a high level of crop technology. As is known, the gross grain harvest in the country this year must amount to at least 220 million tons--that is, almost 25 million tons more than was produced last year. The achievement and overfulfillment of this target for grain production is the most important task, the major task in the work of kolkhozes and sovkhozes, agricultural organs and the arable farming system. As of autumn of last year, farm workers have laid a reasonably good foundation. Much winter fallow was plowed and the winter-crop sowing plan was overfulfilled. But that is only the start of the great deal of work which must be done in the spring to achieve good results. The area sown to spring cereals is 2.5 times larger than that sown to winter crops, and is therefore the main source for increasing the production of grain--especially in the eastern parts of the country. And the yield of winter crops also depends largely on the way in which they are tended in the spring. Therefore, the successful implementation of the entire range of spring fieldwork will be of decisive importance for increasing the output of grain. A competition has been extensively launched throughout the country for a successful fulfillment of the plans for the production of agricultural produce. Farms, rayons, oblasts and republics are assuming augmented pledges for production of grain and other crops. Many farms plan this year to reach the level of gross grain harvest planned for the final year of the 5-year period. In their pledges, kolkhozes and sovkhozes are planning to increase grain production mainly by making the maximum use of local resources and possibilities which exist in each farm. Many farms are increasing the sowing of spring grain crops on newly drained or irrigated areas, and also through the development of new lands, and improving the structure of the spring sown area; specifically, by reducing low-yield and low-value crops to expand the area sown to the best-yielding and most valuable cereal crops and strains such as hard and durum wheats, buckwheat, millet, corn, barley, pulses, oats and other fodder grains.

But the main reserve for increasing grain production is the raising of yields, especially on irrigated and drained lands. Many farms have, with the help of scientists, drawn up crop technology plans for the spring sowing, which provide for implementing a complex of measures to insure that the planned yields are secured. Among those measures, an important place is allotted to the dressing of fields with organic fertilizers and the most efficient use of each kilogram of mineral fertilizer. The plans provide for the top-dressing of the entire area sown to winter crops using aircraft and ground methods; for root-dressing; for their treatment with (?fur) dressing to prevent flattening; for the application of mineral fertilizers to spring grain simultaneously with sowing; for the extensive utilization of (?multi-stemmed) seed drills; for the implementation of all fieldwork in the best crop technology along with high quality. Last year's experience has demonstrated the high degree of efficiency resulting from work with integral sowing detachments. The country's farms are now completing the staffing of detachments and units. They are being supplied with the necessary equipment, detailed (?technical) maps of the fields are being drawn up, and the size and time scale of implementing all fieldwork are being determined.

PRAVDA EDITORIAL CITES DEFICIENCIES IN LIVESTOCK RAISING

LD011313Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Decisive Stage of Stockfarms' Work"]

[Excerpts] Like all working people of our country, stockfarm workers have warmly approved the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Minister, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee letter and actively joined in the competition to fulfill and overfulfill state plans and to raise production efficiency and work quality.

To make the third year of the 5-year plan a year of shock labor and to achieve new successes in implementing the 25th CPSU Congress decisions--this is the aim which stockraising collectives set themselves. Changes for the better are taking place in stockraising in many parts of the country. As spring approaches, however, certain farms have begun yielding the positions they had won. Dairy herd productivity has fallen, compared with last winter, on some kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Kaluzhskaya Oblast. And it is not a question here of any objective causes. Fodder is delivered to stockfarms with delays, it is not prepared well everywhere, and the animals' feed rations are sometimes violated--hence the great shortage in produce. A palpable slump in milk yields and weight increases is also to be observed on many farms in Kirovogradskaya, Kokchetavskaya and certain other oblasts. The state's interests demand that party, soviet and agricultural organs carefully investigate the position on every lagging stockfarm and help local farm leaders and specialists eliminate shortcomings more quickly and make up for lost time. On what does success depend now? Above all, on the skillful utilization of fodder resources: Every kilogram of forage must be fed to livestock only in prepared form. This is precisely what is being done on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Latvia, for example, where 27 high-capacity fodder-processing factories are operating. This year they will produce 300,000 tons of full-ration mixtures. However, a well thought-out approach to this great task is not being taken everywhere. Reports from Pavlodarskaya, Ferganskaya and certain other oblasts attest that fodder-processing equipment is not being exploited at full capacity everywhere, and forage is frequently utilized inefficiently. This is straightforward mismanagement and a lack of proper responsibility for the work of fodder shops on the part of leaders of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and Selkhoztekhnika Associations. Instances of this sort demand operational party intervention and principled evaluation. The birth of young animals--the basis of the further development of stockraising--increases on stockfarms at the beginning of the year. It is very important to show proper concern for the preservation of young animals and for herd reproduction. Many farms in Moldavia, Lithuania, Chuvashia and Permskaya, Zhitomirskaya and Krymskaya oblasts annually obtain 85-90 and more calves from every 100 cows. But barrenness is still high among breeding cows in a number of regions. What a production shortfall there is, for example, in Turkmenia, Kalmykia and Kemerovskaya Oblast, where one-fourth of the cows fail to produce young! Now is the very time to increase the control of specialists, particularly of veterinary and zootechnical services, over the raising of herd replenishments. Concerned with increasing meat production, the majority of farms are correctly oriented toward making maximum use of reserves in pig raising and poultry farming. However, stock is being replenished with young animals slowly in a number of places, the capacities of stockfarms and poultry-raming and incubation stations are not being fully loaded, and few piglets and chick are being sold to the public for raising. In order to rectify the situation it is necessary to take additional measures for the accelerated enlargement of the numbers of pigs and birds, to reestablish groundlessly liquidated stockfarms and to increase returns from complexes. The most difficult, final stage of livestock wintering is approaching, and it is necessary to increase party influence in all sections of the stockraising conveyer belt. Mobilizing the sector's workers for the struggle to obtain the maximum output with the least expenditure, communists are called upon to head the socialist competition in every collective and to strive persistently for production intensification and the introduction of the achievements of science and progressive experience. Raising the efficiency and quality of work of stockfarms is an object of special attention for rural party organizations. The development of stockraising directly insures a rise in the people's well-being. It is all the more important to complete the wintering of livestock in model fashion, which will create a sound basis for increasing production of valuable foodstuffs and for successfully fulfilling this year's plans and socialist pledges and the targets of the 10th 5-year plan.

SOVIET COSMONAUTS CONTINUE OBSERVATIONS, EXPERIMENTS

LD271 24Y Moscow TASS in English 1157 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 27, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the flight control centre: Soviet Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have been working in the near-Earth orbit for 80 days now. Today, the crew of the outer space research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 are to carry out preventive inspection and control checks of the onboard systems of the station and the spaceship, rest, do physical exercise on the veloergometer and complex trainer. The cosmonauts will also carry out visual observations and photography of some parts of the Earth's surface and the world ocean.

On Sunday, the crew continued experiments with the onboard submillimetre telescope. The cosmonauts switched on the telescope and carried out measurements in the infra-red and sub-millimetre wavelength with the use of a cryogen system of closed cycle for cooling detectors of down to a temperature of minus 269 degrees centigrade.

According to the data of medical control, Romanenko and Grechko are in good health. Work on board the orbital complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 is continuing.

ROMANENKO, GRECHKO COMPLETE 80 DAYS IN SPACE

LD011358Y Moscow TASS in English 1350 GMT 01 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 1, TASS--Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko today began the 81st day of their by no means easy work on board the Soviet orbital station Salyut-6.

Commenting on this fact in a TASS interview, Air Force Lieutenant General Vladimir Shatalov, who is in charge of the training of Soviet cosmonauts, said that the orbital station of a new type, Salyut-6, has become for the space expedition, that began on December 10 last year, not only a laboratory for conducting science and economy related experiments, but also a base for creating sophisticated engineering complexes in orbit. Both docking units have functioned under full load. As a result, on January 11 and 22 for the first time in the history of cosmonautics scientific-research complexes "assembled" from three apparatus were formed on near-terrestrial orbit: Salyut-6-Soyuz-26-Soyuz-27 and then Salyut-6-Soyuz-27-Progress-1.

Soviet science regards the creation of orbital stations with replaceable crews as man's high road into space. These stations may become "cosmodromes in space", launching pads for flights to other planets, Shatalov noted.

The experience of previous flights, new engineering ideas (two docking units on the station) and technological solutions (refuelling in orbit) enabled us to plan this time an exceptionally effective expedition both as regards duration and saturation with engineering scientific experiments, he said.

Vladimir Shatalov noted that Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko are demonstrating enviable vigour in space and there is no slackening in the pace of their work. He said that the first representatives of socialist countries--pilots from Czechoslovakia, Poland and the GDR--are completing their training at the international department of the cosmonaut training centre for flights under the Intercosmos programme. New enrollment from other countries is expected soon.

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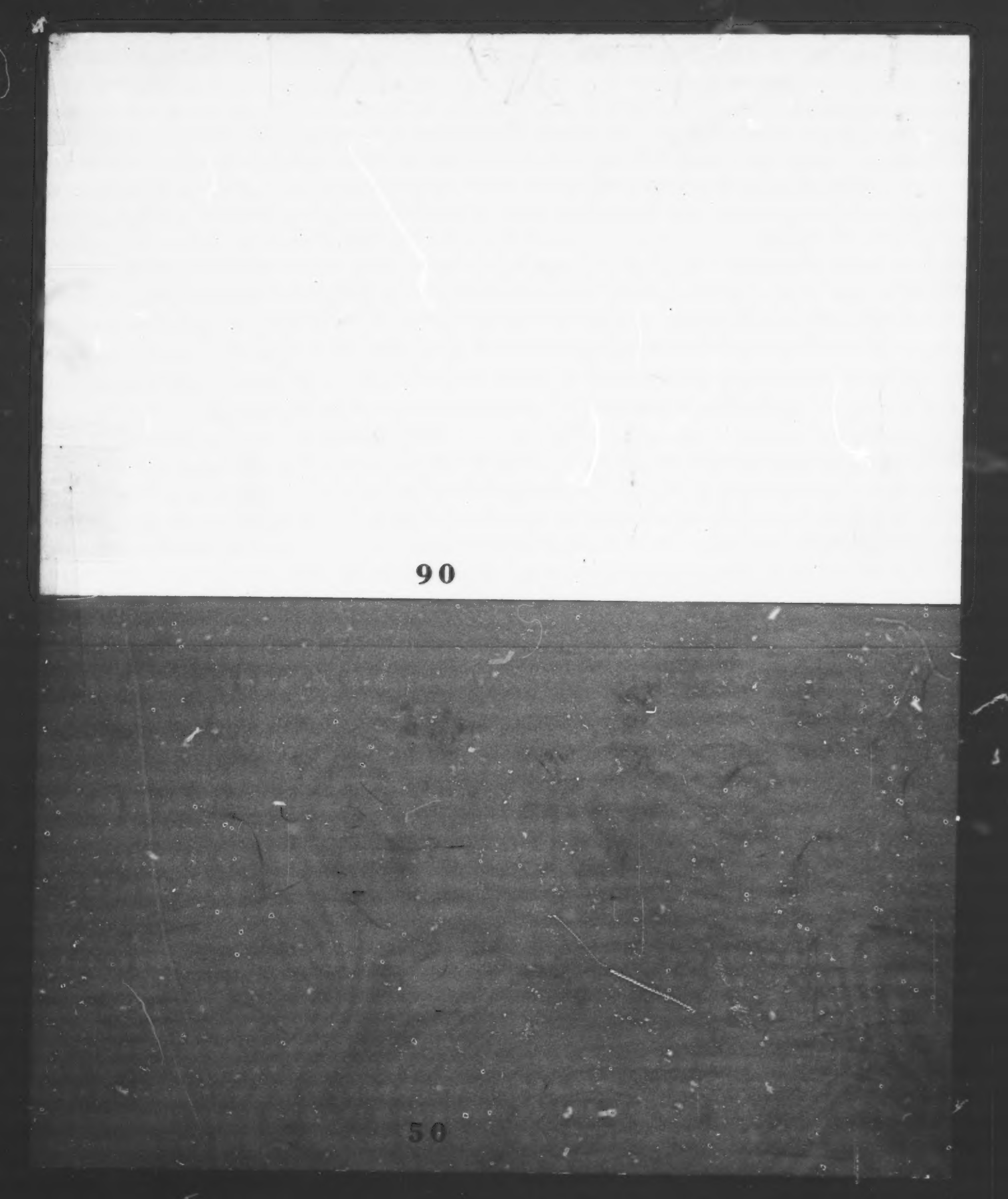
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